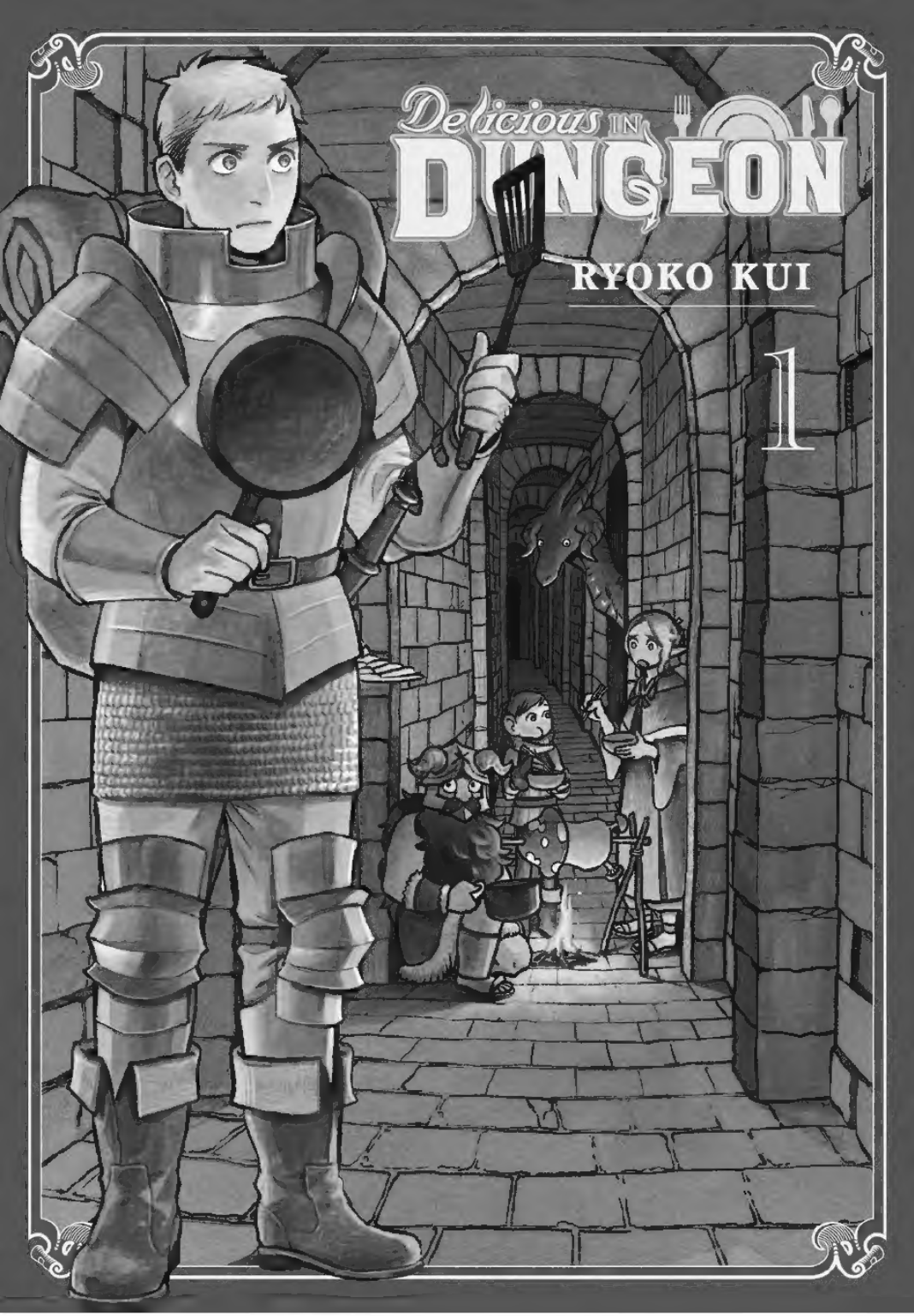
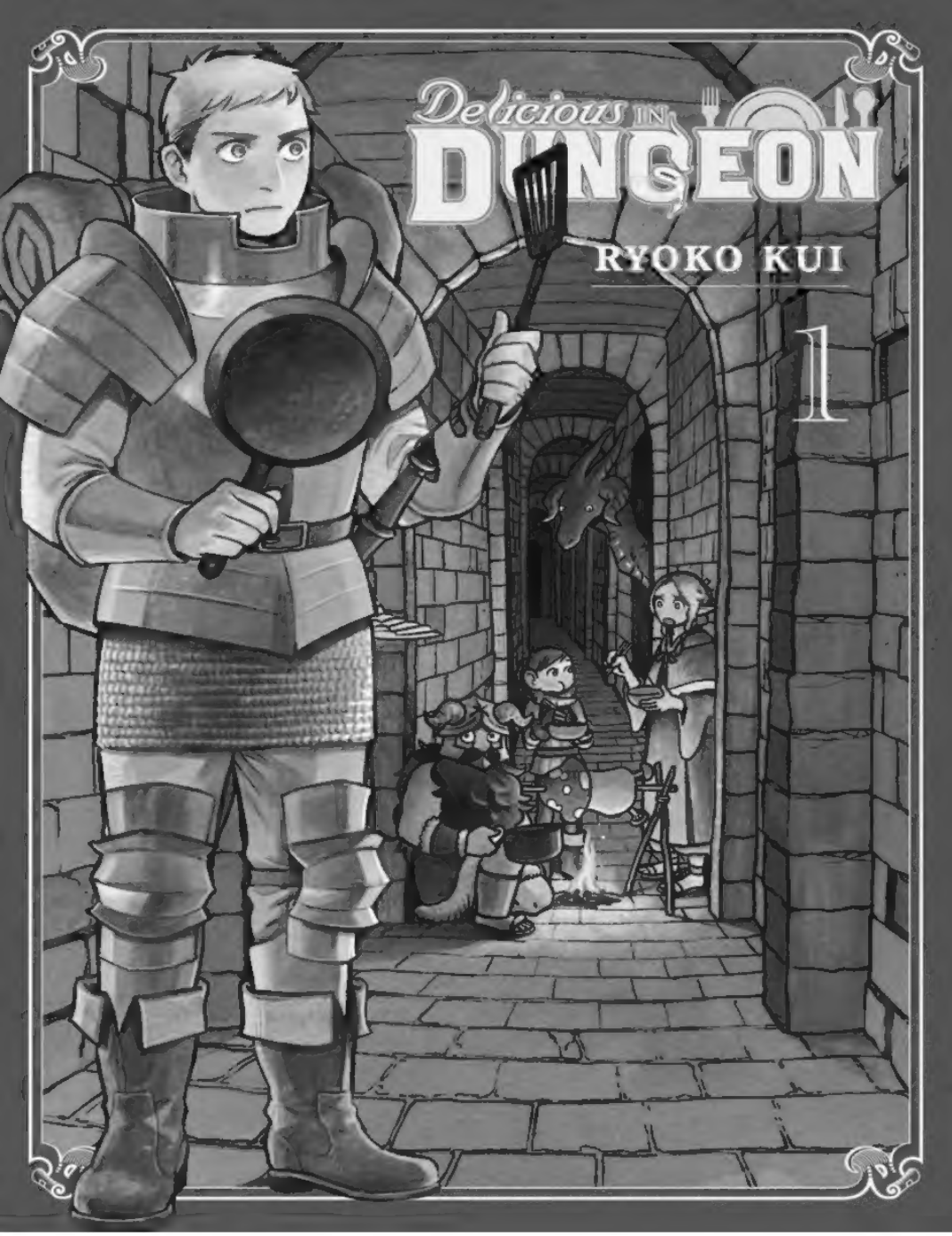
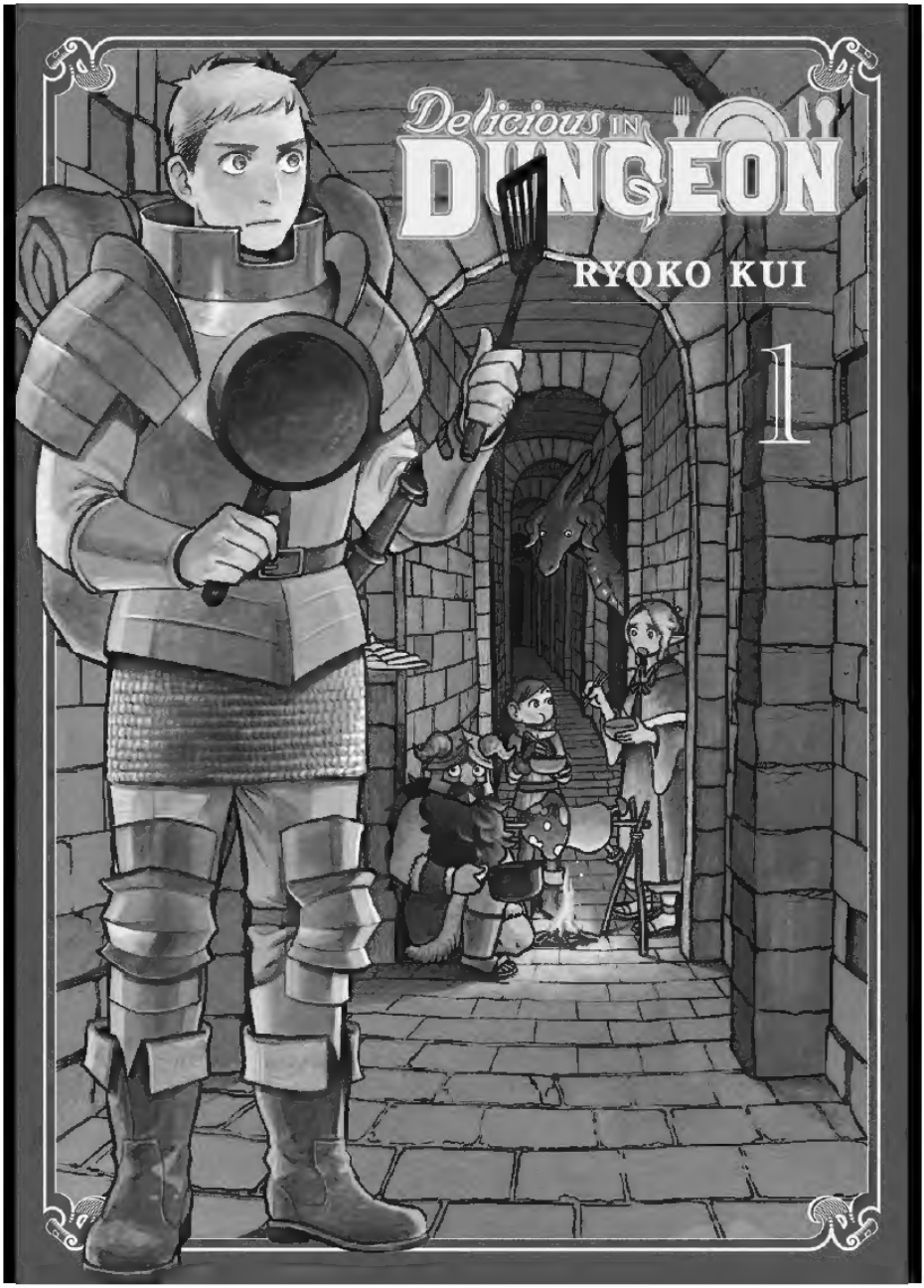

Delicious in Dungeon
RYOKO KUI
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Delicious in Dungeon
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Delicious in
DUNGEON
RYOKO KUI
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# Delicious in Dungeon



Ryoko Kui

1

# Delicious in Dungeon

1

*Contents*

*Chapter 1* **HOT POT** — 005
*Chapter 2* **TART** — 041
*Chapter 3* **ROAST BASILISK** — 065
*Chapter 4* **OMELET** — 089
*Chapter 5* **KAKIAGE** — 113
*Chapter 6* **LIVING ARMOR -1-** — 137
*Chapter 7* **LIVING ARMOR -2-** — 161
*Bonus* **MISCELLANEOUS MONSTER TALES -1-** — 186


IT BEGAN IN A TINY VILLAGE.
ONE DAY, THE FLOOR OF THE CATACOMBS CAVED IN WITH A SMALL RUMBLE, AND A MAN EMERGED FROM THE DEPTHS.
THE ONCE-SPLENDID COUNTRY HAD BEEN SEALED DEEP BENEATH THE EARTH BY A LUNATIC MAGICIAN, AND THERE IT REMAINED.
THE MAN SAID HE WAS THE KING OF A GOLDEN COUNTRY THAT HAD FALLEN A THOUSAND YEARS AGO.
Chapter 1
WITH THOSE FINAL WORDS, THE MAN TURNED TO DUST AND VANISHED.
I BESTOW MY ENTIRE KINGDOM UPON THE ONE WHO DEFEATS THE MAGICIAN.


ゴオオオ
GOOOOOO (RUMBLE)
GIVE IT ALL YOU'VE GOT, GUYS!
ONCE WE SLAY THIS DRAGON, WE'RE ALMOST THERE!
LET'S GET 'IM!
WE COULDN'T BE MORE PREPARED FOR THIS.
WE HAVE NO VULNERABILITIES.
EXCEPT...


...I'M HUNGRY.
ZUDOHH (WHLIID)
...AND FELL INTO A TRAP LOSING THREE DAYS' WORTH OF FOOD.
WHOA!
ON THE WAY HERE, WE WASTED A DAY WANDERING AROUND THANKS TO A MISTAKE ON OUR MAP...
IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE GOING IN CIRCLES...
DEFENSIVE SPELLS WON'T WORK IN TIME.
SHUUU (ROAR)
HURRY, HEAL HER!
DOOM (BOOM)
OUR MOVEMENTS ARE SLUGGISH.
AAAH!
WAAH!
IT'S A PAIN, BUT ONCE WE DEFEAT THIS DRAGON, WE'LL HAVE TO TURN BACK TEMPORARILY.


BIG BRO!
AHH!
DON (SHOVE)
WHAT'S WRONG? DID SHE GET HIT BY A CONFUSION SPELL?
BAKLIN (CHOMP)


HUH??
NO WAY...
HUH?
HUH?
WHEN WE'VE COME THIS FAR...
WIPED OUT.
ZO (SHUDDER)
KA CRASH
MISH! (CREAK)
R...
MISH!
RUN...
MISH!


1. Hot Pot


I'M HUNGRY...
MUKU (SIT)
GUU (GRUMBLE)
UNH...
SOMEONE MAGICKED US OUT OF THE DUNGEON...
...BUT WE CAN'T FIND FALIN ANYWHERE.
LAIOS! YOU'RE AWAKE?
NO...!
THE SPELL DIDN'T WORK ON WHAT WAS INSIDE THE DRAGON'S STOMACH.
SHE'S PROBABLY STILL IN THE DUNGEON.
.....
WHAT!?
SHE GOT EATEN.


?
I'M GOING TO GO SAVE HER.
W-WAIT A MINUTE.
THE THING IS...
...IT LOOKS LIKE MOST OF OUR INVENTORY GOT LEFT IN THE DUNGEON.
IN OTHER WORDS, WE'RE BROKE.
THAT'S...
CHIL-CHUCK ?
...WE JUST LOST TWO PARTY MEM-BERS.
AND WORSE...
WE'RE WHAT?
I hereby resign effective immediately to pursue opportunities.
I GUESS THEY'D BEEN GETTING OFFERS FROM OTHER GUILDS FOR A WHILE.
DD.MM.YY
WHA...?
GIVE THOSE TO LAIOS WHEN HE WAKES UP.
WE'VE GOTTA MAKE A LIVING, Y'KNOW.


AND FOOD.
TOILET PAPER
POTS
THE COST OF WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT...
COMMODITIES...
ARMOR
SPARE CLOTHES
WEAPONS
LIGHT
IT TAKES MONEY TO EXPLORE THE DUNGEON.
FOOD
SLEEPING BAGS
POTIONS
HIRING PARTY MEMBERS...
WATER
THIS IS ALL THAT'S LEFT OF OUR SAVINGS...
...HIRE NEW MEMBERS...
WE'D NEED EQUIPMENT FOR THEM TOO.
WE COULD USE THE MONEY TO BUY CHEAP GEAR...
...GET FOOD, POTIONS, AND COMMODITIES...
SAY WE SOLD OUR WEAPONS FOR CASH TO TIDE US OVER...
MNGL MNGL
Rank Down
UGH...
HAS ANY ADVENTURER EVER BEEN REVIVED FROM POOP!?
PEOPLE HAVE BEEN RESURRECTED FROM MINCEMEAT BEFORE, RIGHT!?
NOT THAT I'VE EVER HEARD OF.
MY LITTLE SISTER'S GOING TO BE DIGESTED WHILE WE'RE GETTING READY.
WOULD IT COVER ALL THAT?
NOT EVEN CLOSE.


WE NEARLY LOST, ALL BECAUSE WE WERE HUNGRY.
WE NEED TO STOCK UP ON FOOD.
MONEY'S AN ISSUE, BUT FOR NOW LET'S AT LEAST GET SOMETHING TO EAT, OKAY?
KABOBG, MOG
EXTRA-LARGE MIXED FRY RICE BOWL, 160G
GRILLED THICK-CUT BACON AND POTATOES
PORK STEW, 185G
THE LAUGHING WOLF HAS BIGGER PORTIONS THOUGH.
THE PUBLIC DINING HALL ON THE AVENUE HAS CHEAP FOOD.
WHAT SHOULD I GET?
210G
AND THEIR MEAT BUN SOUP IS REALLY YUMMY.
THEY THROW IN FREE TRAVEL RATIONS.
OH! BUT THAT TAVERN'S A GOOD OPTION TOO.


BUT IF WE GO IN LIKE THIS...
.....
I... HAVE AN IDEA.
NO. I HAVE TO GET BACK IN THE DUNGEON RIGHT AWAY.
B-BUT THAT'S INSANE!
ARE YOU SUICIDAL?
THEN I'LL SELL YOUR EQUIPMENT AND GO IN BY MYSELF.
YOU TWO LEAVE THE GUILD.
WHAT ...!?
LAIOS...
YOU'D GO THAT FAR?
GU (GRIT)
THIS WAS MY FAULT.
I CAN'T PUT YOU TWO IN DANGER AS WELL.
IF I'M ALONE, I CAN AVOID MONSTERS AND REACH THE DEPTHS WITH MINIMAL FIGHTING.
NO. THAT WAY, I WON'T HAVE TO DOWNGRADE MY GEAR.
IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE.


NO! I'M ABSOLUTELY GOING WITH YOU!
I CARE ABOUT FALIN TOO.
AND DON'T TELL ME I'LL HOLD YOU BACK.
YOU KNOW HOW POWERFUL MY MAGIC IS.
YOU'D BETTER NOT FORGET MY SPECIALTY EITHER.
YOU NEED SOMEBODY WHO UNLOCKS DOORS AND DISARMS TRAPS.
YOU GUYS...
YOU REALLY INTEND TO COME WITH ME?
NO MATTER WHAT!!?
(GRAB)
UH...
UH-HUH...?


WHAT!?
THE DUNGEON IS SWARMING WITH MONSTERS.
THAT MEANS IT HAS AN ECOSYSTEM.
DUNGEON ENTRANCE
WE'LL FORAGE FOR FOOD IN THE DUNGEON.
EXERCISE
WATER
STARCH AND GRAIN
VEGETABLES
FISH AND MEAT
FRUIT
MILK AND DAIRY
MEAL-BALANCING GUIDE
IN OTHER WORDS...
HUMANS CAN SUSTAIN THEMSELVES IN THE DUNGEON TOO!
THERE ARE PLANTS THAT HERBIVOROUS MONSTERS EAT AND WATER, LIGHT, AND DIRT TO NOURISH THOSE PLANTS!
WHERE THERE ARE CARNIVORES, THERE ARE HERBIVORES FOR THEM TO EAT!
DUNGEON FOOD CHAIN
SOME OF WHAT WE SAW LOOKED PRETTY TASTY.
THINK ABOUT OUR PAST ADVENTURES.
YUP.
WE'LL EAT ANYTHING THAT LOOKS EDIBLE.
NO, BUT SERIOUSLY...
WAIT, YOU MEAN WE'LL BE EATING MONSTERS?


NO! I CAN'T!
I REALLY, REALLY CAN'T!
MAYBE?
I GUESS IT'S DOABLE...
AH-HA-HA-HA! BOY, WHAT A DUMMY!
EATING MONSTERS! WHAT A NUTTY IDEA...
THIS TIME LAST YEAR
I READ IT IN THE PAPER!!
AND THEY'RE ALWAYS GETTING CARRIED OUT WITH FOOD POISONING!
YEAH, CRIMINALS WHO CAN'T GO BACK ABOVEGROUND !!
QUITE A FEW PEOPLE DO HUNT MONSTERS FOR FOOD.
.....
I DIDN'T SAY I'D EAT MONSTERS!!
YOU SAID YOU'D DO ANYTH.NG TO SAVE FALIN.


EVEN SO...
...IF WE EAT SOMETHING WEIRD AND WIND UP WITH FOOD POISONING, IT'LL ALL HAVE BEEN FOR NOTHING...
DO YOU HAVE ANOTHER IDEA?
THEN...
...WE DON'T HAVE TIME OR MONEY TO BUY FOOD.
TE (CYLIED)
TE
TE
DOTA
DOTA (DECRAMBLED)
RUUUN!
EEEEEK
HM?
THEY MUST HAVE BEEN NEW-BIES.
AND THIS MONSTER ROUTED THEM? THEY MAY NOT BE CUT OUT FOR THIS...
GOSU (WHUM.?)


LET'S HAVE THIS FOR LUNCH.
WAIT... LAIOS...
ZOOO!


THE DUNGEON GOURMET GUIDE SAYS THEY'RE A SUITABLE FOOD FOR BEGINNERS.
MAYBE IT'S POISONOUS.
STARTING WITH A MUSHROOM MIGHT BE RISKY.
NO, NO, NO!
I DON'T WANNA!
WHAT IS THIS BOOK?
IT'S FULL OF MARGIN NOTES.
IT SAYS THEY'RE MEATY AND MILD FLAVORED.
IT'S SEEN SERIOUS USE.
UH...
THOSE ARE THE FOOTSTEPS OF A HUGE SCORPION!
SAY, YOU DON'T THINK HE'S...
KAKA
KAKA! (SKITTER)
AH!
LET'S FIND AN OPEN SPACE AND BUILD A FIRE.
I'D LIKE TO HAVE ANOTHER INGREDIENT OR TWO, BUT...


...OWEVER AFTER IT WAS LINKED TO THE DUNGEON, IT BECAME THE LIVELIEST PLACE IN THE VILLAGE!
YEARS AGO IT WAS A GRAVEYARD. A QUIET SANCTUARY WHERE THE VILLAGERS' ANCESTORS SLEPT.
CLAUST FAMILY TOMB
DUN-GEON IF
EVEN THOUGH IT'S IN THE DUNGEON, THIS PLACE GETS LOTS OF TRAFFIC, AND IT'S ALWAYS TEEMING WITH ADVENTURERS AND MERCHANTS.
GURU GURU (STRIDE)
IT ISN'T CLEAR WHETHER THEY'RE CREATURES FROM ABOVE-GROUND THAT WERE TRANS-FORMED BY FORBIDDEN SPELLS...
...OR IF THEY WERE SUMMONED FROM A DEMON WORLD.
GA (SLEEP)
THEY SAY MONSTERS COME UP FROM THE DUNGEON'S DEPTHS.
HOWEVER, THEY'RE THE ONLY PROOF THAT SUPPORTS THE EXIS-TENCE OF THE CURSED GOLDEN CITY.
ZURU (DRAG)
ZURU
DOSU (WHUMP)
DOSU
EITHER WAY, THEY ALL LOOK VERY STRANGE...
GURU (GLIDE)
...AND THEY ATTACK AS IF THEY'RE PROTECTING SOMETHING.
GAK (SNAP)


NEWBIES GET HURT BECAUSE THEY ONLY PAY ATTENTION TO THE STINGER WHEN THEY FIGHT.
IF YOU STIMULATE THEM, YOU CAN CATCH THEM EVEN WITHOUT BAIT, SO THEY'RE ACTUALLY EASIER THAN CRAYFISH.
SAFE
DANGER
DANGER
...HEY.
FIRST, HUGE SCORPIONS GRAB AND HOLD THEIR PREY WITH THEIR PINCERS.
THEN THEY INJECT A NEURO-TOXIN WITH THEIR TAILS.
IT'S A REFLEX, SO IT'S FAST.
DON'T CATCH IT LIKE IT'S A CRAY-FISH.
YEAH. YEAH.
I REALLY DO WANT TO SAVE MY SISTER THOUGH.
KAA (BLUSH)
ADMIT IT.
YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR A CHANCE TO EAT THIS STUFF FOR AGES, HAVEN'T YOU?
BEFORE LONG, I STARTED WONDERING HOW THEY'D TASTE.
HE'S A PSYCHO-PATH.
THEIR TYPES, THEIR CALLS...
...HOW THEY LIVE...
...I'VE NEVER SAID ANY-THING, BUT...
...I LIKE MON-STERS.


WE'D HAVE TO KEEP MAKING TRIPS BACK FOR WATER.
JII (STARE)
SHOULDN'T WE DO THIS SOMEWHERE LESS... PUBLIC?
"SCUSE ME!
LEMME THROUGH.
ZAPU (SPLOOSH)
BEGIN-NERS' PLAZA
"ORTHODOX," HE SAYS...
BAKU (GULP)
SO? HOW DO PEOPLE EAT THESE?
LET'S GO ORTHO-DOX AND BOIL THEM.
CHIRA (GLANCE)
DIAGONAL SLASHES AND HORIZONTAL TORSO CUTS MAY BE LESS EFFECTIVE ON MUSHROOM ENEMIES.
IT'S EASY TO CUT VERTICALLY, BUT NOT SIDEWAYS.
HM!
I SEE.
THIS WAS INFORMA TIVE.
GIRI (STRAIN)
GIRI
WHAT!?


H-HANG ON.
BOKO - BOKO (BUBBLE)
BOCHA (SPLASH)
BOCHA
IN WHAT WAY, EXACTLY?
ONCE IT'S SLICED UP, IT LOOKS EDIBLE.
...OR SO I'M TOLD. I WANT TO TRY IT.
REAL-LY?
THIS SCORPION'S VENOM ISN'T HARMFUL IF YOU EAT IT.
POCHA (SPLISH)
CAN YOU EAT SCORPIONS JUST AS THEY ARE?
WON'T IT BE POISON-OUS?
PAKU (CHOMP)
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
BLARG


CAN'T SAY I AGREE WITH YOUR METHOD THOUGH.
SCORPION HOT POT, HM?
WHO ARE YOU!?
GOOM
THE BOOK SAID IT WOULD BE FINE.
IT WILL, HUH?
WELL, TECHNI-CALLY, YES. IT JUST TASTES NASTY.
...A..WAYS TAKE OFF THE PINCERS, HEAD, LEGS, AND TAIL..
WHEN YOU EAT HUGE SCORPI-ONS...
DON (CHOP)
THE TAIL WILL GIVE YOU THE RUNS.
...THAT'S A BIT MUCH FOR BEGIN-NERS.
IF YOU STEW 'EM AND FERMENT 'EM, THEY'RE GOOD BEER SNACKS, BUT.
PI (*ω*)
THEY'RE BITTER, AND THEIR TEXTURE ISN'T GOOD.
AND TAKE OUT THE INNARDS AS WELL.
THE HEAT TRAVELS BETTER, BROTH GETS OUT, AND THE WHOLE DISH IS TASTIER.
EASIER TO EAT TOO.
YOU SHOULD CUT SCORES ALONG THE BODY.
---CUT.


THE LEGS ARE GOOD?
I ALMOST THREW THEM AWAY
THAT'S RIGHT.
THEY HAVE A NICE, UNIQUE AROMA. SEE?
KUN (SNIFF)
KUN
"FOOT SMELL," HUH?
THE LEGS ARE TASTY, SO USE ALL OF 'EM.
WITH WALKING MUSHROOMS, THROW AWAY THE RUMP AND THREE CENTIMETERS OF THE SURFACE.
RUMP (ROOT END)
LEGS
LET'S USE MINE.
THIS POT'S TOO SMALL.
YOU'RE FREAKISHLY WELL PREPARED.
GASHI (CLANK)
HMM...
JUST SCORPION AND MUSHROOMS WILL BE A BIT BLAND.


SHURI
SHURI (SKRIT)
ZORI (SCRAPE)
ZORI
NOSHI (STOMP)
NOSHI
NO! NO! I CAN'T, I REALLY CAN'T!
MARCILLE.
LISTEN! THIS IS A GRAVEYARD!
PUT THESE IN.
WAIT! NOT THOSE!!
NOSHI
NOSHI
HE'S BACK.
OOON
WHAT ON EARTH IS—
AND WHO ARE YOU ANYWAY!?
MARCILLE!
ABOVE YOU!
IT'S FINE THIS WAY! IT LOOKS GOOD ENOUGH WITH JUST SCORPION AND WALKING MUSHROOM!
LET'S HAVE IT LIKE THIS, OKAY? OKAY!?
BUT, MARCILLE ...
LET'S SAY MONSTERS ARE OKAY.
BUT PLANTS THAT PUT DOWN ROOTS ARE OUT! FOR RELIGIOUS REASONS!

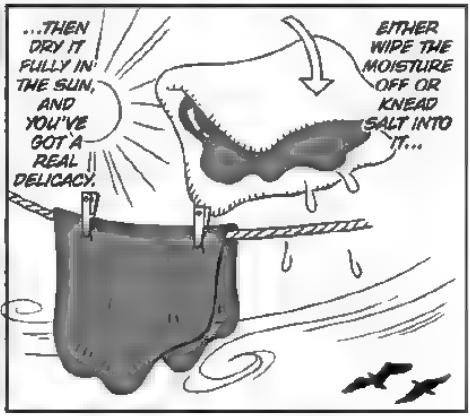

LIRK.
NEYO (GLORP)
ABOVE ME?
FIRE SPELL ...
OH... THAT WON'T WORK. I CAN'T CHANT.
HACHA (SHLLICK)
GOBOBO (GURGLE)
RATS.
DON'T MOVE, MARCILLE!
RIGHT OVER MY FACE.
A SLIME!

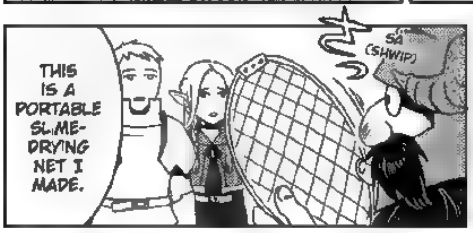

DERO (GLORP)
PYUAH!
MUNZLI (PINCH)
SAKU (SLICE)
SPX: GOBOBO (BURBLE)
2 YRS AGO
UGH!
FIRE!
FIRE!
COME TO THINK OF IT, THE FIRST THING THAT KILLED ME WAS A SLIME.
HEY, A LIFE REVIEW.
HAAH!
HFF!
HERE. BLOW.
I'M FINE. I GOT SOME UP MY NOSE THOUGH.
MARCILLE, ARE YOU OKAY?
KOFF!
KAFF!
KOFF!
YOU BEAT A SLIME WITH A KNIFE?
IT'S EASY IF YOU KNOW THEIR MAKE-UP.
IN HUMAN TERMS, IT WOULD BE LIKE TURNING YOUR STOMACH INSIDE OUT AND SURROUNDING YOUR HEAD AND ORGANS WITH GASTRIC FLUIDS.
SLIME ANATOMY
Gonad
Brain
Spiracle
Lung
Anal Vent
Digestive Layer
Foot
Stomach
SLIMES' INTERNAL ORGANS LOOK LIKE THIS.
THEY LOOK AMORPHOUS, BUT ACTUALLY...
...THEY'RE MORE UNIFORM THAN YOUR AVERAGE HUMAN.


...WASH IT WELL IN HOT WATER AND A LITTLE CITRUS JUICE.
IT'S REALLY NOT EDIBLE AS IT IS NOW, BUT...
DOBOBO (POUR)

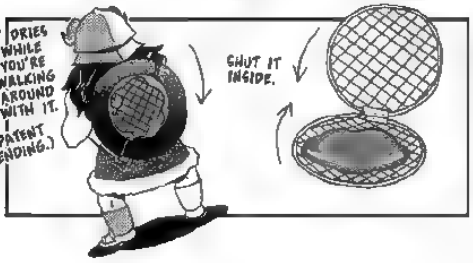

THEY SENSE WHEN THEIR PREY'S EXHALED AND LEAP AT THEM.
THAT MEANS YELLING AND SHOUTING MAKES YOU AN EASIER TARGET.


SPRING-TIME IN A FAMOUS DRIED SLIME PRO-DUCTION AREA


...THEN DRY IT FULLY IN THE SUN, AND YOU'VE GOT A REAL DELICACY.
EITHER WIPE THE MOISTURE OFF OR KNEAD SALT INTO IT...

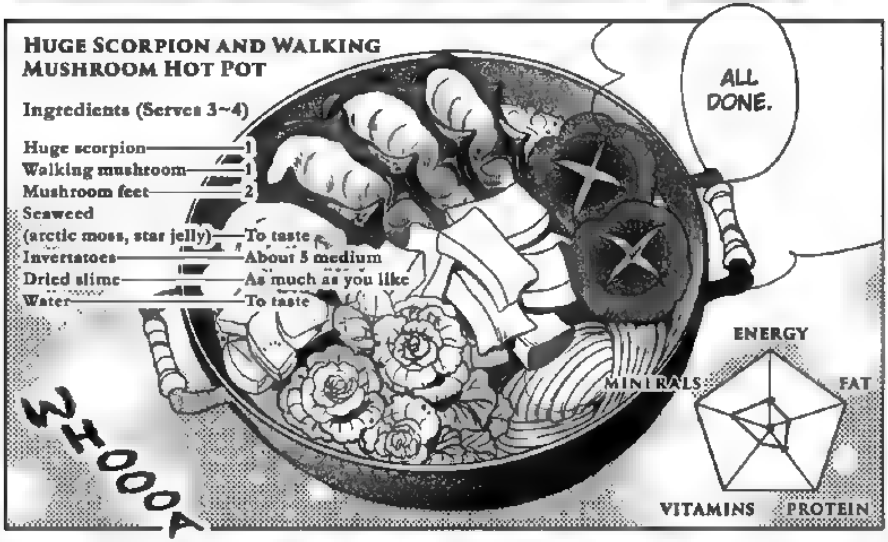

THIS IS A PORTABLE SLIME-DRYING NET I MADE.
SA (SHWIP)

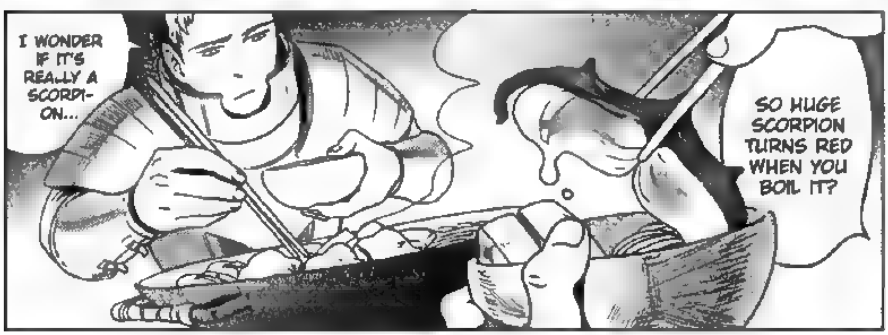

IT TAKES TIME TO DRY IT TOO.
IT'S NOT REALLY A FOOD YOU CAN JUST SNACK ON IN THE DUNGEON.
HOW-EVER, IF POSSI-BLE, IT'S BETTER TO STARVE IT FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS.
NUTO (OOZE)


IT DRIES WHILE YOU'RE WALKING AROUND WITH IT. (PATENT PENDING.)
SHUT IT INSIDE.


I DON'T MIND.
BUT IT'S A DELICACY, ISN'T IT?
YOUR INTEREST MAKES ME HAPPIER THAN ANYTHING ELSE.
TON (CHOP)
TON
I'VE RESEARCHED MONSTER COOKING IN THIS DUNGEON FOR OVER A DECADE.
LET'S PUT THIS IN TODAY.
...I HAVE SOME FINISHED STUFF RIGHT HERE.
IT TAKES TIME FOR IT TO BE READY, BUT...
FUM
GOSO (RUSTLE)
ALL RIGHT, SIT TIGHT A MINUTE.
IT'LL BE READY SOON.
TEN YEARS!
HAS THE DUNGEON EVEN BEEN HERE THAT LONG?
ZARAA (TUMBLE)
TON
TON
SHORI (SCRIT)
SHORI




HUGE SCORPION AND WALKING MUSHROOM HOT POT
Ingredients (Serves 3~4)
Huge scorpion 1
Walking mushroom 1
Mushroom feet 2
Seaweed (arctic moss, star jelly) To taste
Invertatoes About 5 medium
Dried slime As much as you like
Water To taste
ALL DONE.
ENERGY
FAT
PROTEIN
VITAMINS
MINERALS
SHOOP


I WONDER IF IT'S REALLY A SCORPI-ON...
SO HUGE SCORPION TURNS RED WHEN YOU BOIL IT?


YOU'RE RIGHT.
HORO (FLAKE)
IT'LL COME OUT OF THE SHELL REAL EASY.
HEATING THE FLESH SHRINKS IT DOWN A BIT.
SEEING IT IS A LOT DIFFERENT FROM READING ABOUT IT.
IT SMELLS PRETTY GOOD.
AIN'T IT THOUGH!
IT'S GOOD!
IT SURE DOES, DOESN'T IT?
THE FLAVOR CHANGES SO MUCH DEPENDING ON HOW IT'S COOKED.


GRUU...
(RUMBLE)
GIVE ME A BOWL TOO!
WHAT'S THIS?
DRIED SLIME INNARDS.


GAN
GAN
THEY'RE GOOD IF YOU SOAK 'EM IN FRUIT JUICE TOO.
THEY'RE TASTY ANY WAY YOU EAT 'EM.
SO THIS IS HOW YOU EAT SLIMES...
WOW!
IT'S DELI-CIOUS!
THEY'RE NOT REALLY ROOTS. THEY'RE THE STEMS OF DUNGEON PLANTS THAT GROW UPSIDE DOWN.
THESE TREE ROOTS ARE NICE AND STARCHY.
WE'RE IN THE DUN-GEON ALL THE TIME, BUT I HAD NO IDEA ANY OF THIS WAS HERE.
IT'S PLAIN OLD ALGAE.
THAT STUFF SPROUTS ANYWHERE MOIST.
IS IT ANOTHER DUNGEON PLANT?
THIS ALGAE IS SOFT AND YUMMY TOO.

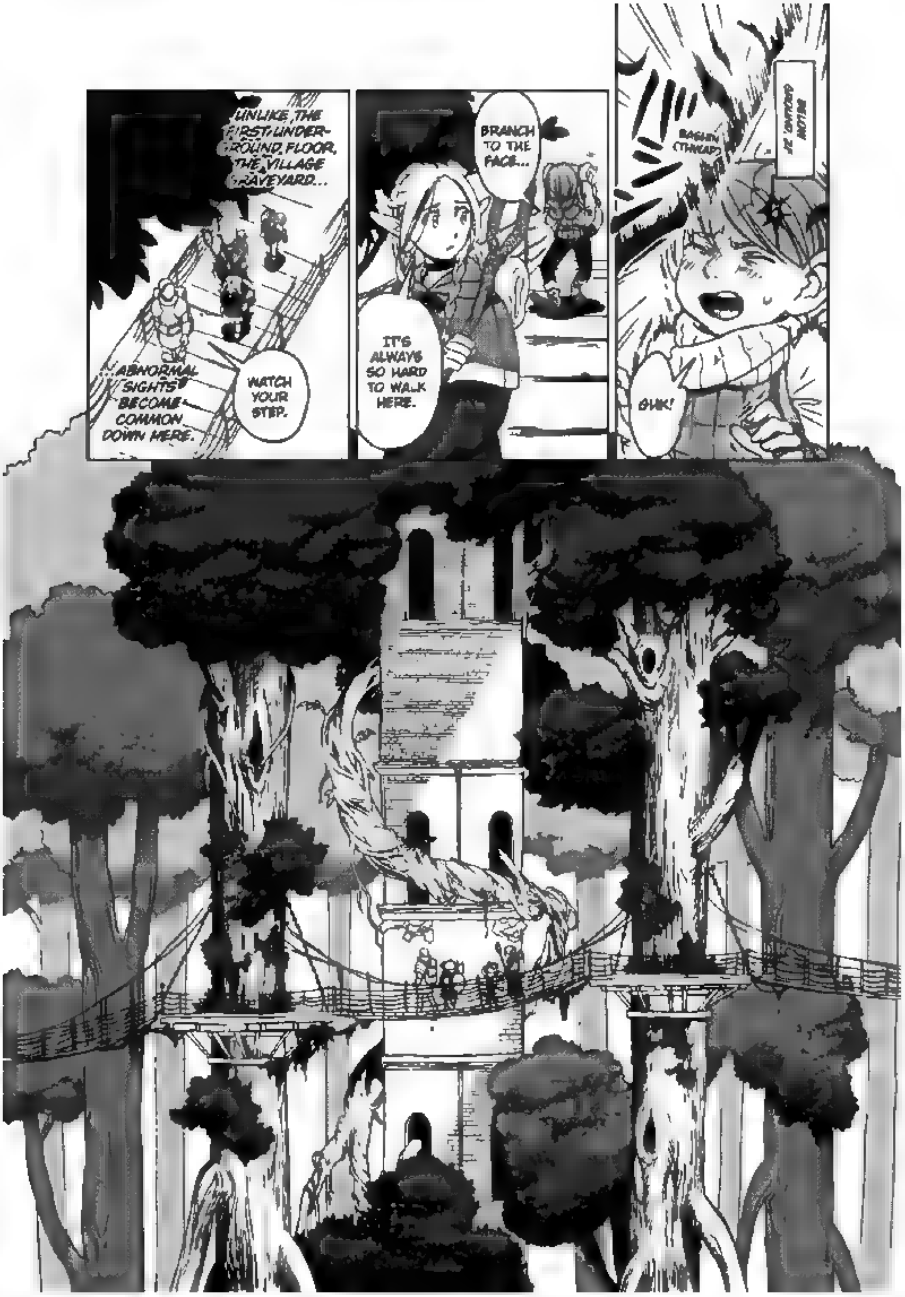

KARAAN CLATTERO
WHEW.
MAN, I'M STUFFED...
THE MAGIC USER IS MARCILLE...
I'M LAIOS.
...AND THAT'S CHILCHUCK, OUR PICK-LOCK.
IT MEANS "SEEKER" IN DWARFISH.
MY NAME'S SENSHI.
BY THE WAY...
...WE SKIPPED OUR INTRODUCTIONS.
A MONSTER!
WHAT KIND WAS IT?
A DRAGON. ONE WITH BRIGHT-RED SCALES.
HM. YES.
YOU SEEM TO BE JOURNEYING FOR A REASON...
WE WANT TO SAVE HER BEFORE SHE'S DIGESTED.
A MONSTER ATE ONE OF OUR COMPANIONS IN THE DEPTHS OF THE DUNGEON.


WELL, I HOPE SO, BUT...
.....
THE RED DRAGON, HM!?
BRIGHT-RED SCALES...
THE DEPTHS...
I HEAR DRAGONS SLEEP MOST OF THE TIME TO MAINTAIN THOSE HUGE BODIES.
ITS DIGESTION SHOULD BE FAR SLOWER THAN OTHER MONSTERS'
IS THAT RIGHT! SAY, THANKS!
THAT'S OUR LINE.
WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU ALONG.
YOU'D BE A BIG HELP TO US TOO.
LISTEN, COULD I JOIN YOU?
!
COOKING THE RED DRAGON'S BEEN A DREAM OF MINE FOR YEARS!


THE RED DRAGON...
SHOULD I GO WITH CLASSIC STEAKS?
OR WOULD GROUND STEAK BE BETTER?
SHABU-SHABU'S A GOOD ONE TOO.
OR IF IT HAS EGGS, THERE'S MOTHER-AND-CHILD RICE BOWLS...
.....
...REALLY OKAY TO EAT THAT?
IS IT...


THE THOUGHT DID CROSS OUR MINDS...
...BUT NOBODY SAID ANYTHING.
DUNGEON FOOD.
AFTER ALL...
...IT'S EAT OR BE EATEN.
THERE'S NO HIERARCHY INVOLVED.
EATING IS, QUITE SIMPLY, THE EXCLUSIVE PRIVILEGE OF THE LIVING.
DUNGEON FOOD.
AH, DUNGEON FOOD.
CHAPTER 1 THE END


2. Tart


UNLIKE THE FIRST UNDERGROUND FLOOR, THE VILLAGE GRAVEYARD...
...ABNORMAL SIGHTS BECOME COMMON DOWN HERE.
WATCH YOUR STEP.
BRANCH TO THE FACE...
IT'S ALWAYS SO HARD TO WALK HERE.
BASHIN (THWAP)
IT SWUNG BACK!
GWK!


I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED...
THESE TREES ARE SO TALL, SO WHY DON'T THEY STICK OUT ABOVE-GROUND?
THE SCHOLARS SAY THAT THIS IS THE TOWER OF THE GOLDEN CASTLE THAT SLUMBERS DEEP IN THE EARTH.
VILLAGE
1F - SUBTERRANEAN GRAVEYARD
WE ARE HERE
MAYBE THE SPACE IS WARPED.
THE DUNGEON'S THE PRODUCT OF A CURSE, AFTER ALL.
MARCILLE, ARE YOU OKAY?
I TRIPPED ON A GAP IN THE BRIDGE.
GACK!


LET'S FIND A CAMP-SITE AND REST EARLY TODAY.
WE'VE WALKED A LONG WAY.
YOU MUST BE TIRED.
SOUP...
GULP (GURGLE)
HA HA HA!
AND WE GOT BURNED TRYING TO MAKE PORK SOUP.
WE SPENT THE NIGHT IN A HOLLOW TREE AROUND HERE A LONG TIME AGO, DIDN'T WE?
WE SURE DID.
AAAH.
RIGHT. LET'S HUNT A MONSTER THAT LOOKS DINNER WORTHY.
HUNGRY?
I'VE GOT SOME LEFTOVER SCORPION BROTH FROM LUNCH.
NO THANKS.


I'LL DO MY BEST TO FULFILL ANY REQUEST.
LAIOS... SO YOU SAY, BUT...
HAAH...
...WHAT DO YOU WANT TO EAT, MARCILLE?
HUH?
HAAH...
SA (SHIP)
YOU STILL MEAN EATING MONSTERS, RIGHT?
LET'S SEE...
GOSO (RUMMAGE)
PERA (FLIP)
WHAT SORT OF MONSTERS ARE AROUND HERE?
ANYTHING'S FINE.
AS LONG AS IT'S EDIBLE.


NOT IF WE WANT TO KEEP GOING!
NO! NOTHING UNSANI-TARY!
Big Bat
Giant Rat
BIG BATS.
GIANT RATS.
DEMI-HUMANS ARE OUT!
FOREST GOBLINS.
METAL?
LIVING ARMOR.


I REALLY DON'T THINK I'M BEING THAT PICKY!!
...BUT THEN THEY NITPICK ALL OUR SUGGESTIONS.
THEY SAY ANYTHING'S FINE...
AHHH, I KNOW THIS TYPE.
ISN'T THERE ANYTHING MORE, YOU KNOW, NORMAL?
LIKE BIRDS! OR FRUIT!
HUH?
LET'S JUST TRY TO ENJOY OURSELVES, OKAY?
ALTHOUGH, THIS IS THE DUNGEON, SO WE MIGHT MEET A MONSTER DUCK WITH A MAN-EATING LEEK.
I CAN'T BE THAT OPTIMISTIC...
I'M SORRY.
DUCKS DON'T COME ALONG CARRYING LEEKS ON THEIR BACKS, YOU KNOW.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
MATA!
THERE ARE SOME HERE, BUT THEY WON'T ATTACK US.
IF WE'RE HUNTING THEM, WE'LL NEED TO PREPARE FOR IT.
GU (WHO?)
WHAT...?
REALLY?
NO.
THERE ARE LOTS OF NUTS AND FRUITS AT THIS TIME OF YEAR.


DAN (BAM)
GON (OADLIN)
GON (BOOND)
I KNEW IT! MAN-EATING PLANT FRUIT!!
THERE, SEE!?


AS A RULE, IT GROWS WILD ALONG ANIMAL PATHS.
TAKE THAT FLOWER, FOR EXAMPLE.
IT'S OFFICIAL NAME IS BARASELIA.
"MAN-EATING PLANT" IS THE COMMON NAME.
MARCILLE.
YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG.
IT DOESN'T SPECIFICALLY TARGET PEOPLE.
IT DOESN'T EAT THEM EITHER.
IT'S A PLANT THAT MAKES ITS OWN COMPOST.
IT WRAPS AROUND THINGS THAT MOVE, BUT IT CAN'T DIGEST THEM.
IT EMITS A STICKY LIQUID LIKE SPIDER SILK...
...AND WHEN AN ANIMAL TOUCHES IT, THE PLANT PULLS IT CLOSE ON REFLEX.
AND I'M NOT COMPLAINING ABOUT THAT CYCLE...
IF YOU GO BACK FAR ENOUGH, THE VEGETABLES YOU USUALLY EAT ARE MADE OF ANIMAL POOP AND CORPSES TOO.
NOT THAT WE'RE UNDER A CHERRY TREE, BUT...
BUT THEY DO USE PEOPLE FOR NUTRIENTS SOMETIMES.

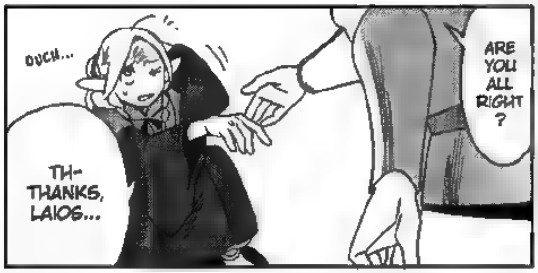

LOTS OF PEOPLE MAKE A LIVING BY RECOVERING AND REVIVING CORPSES TOO.
*IT'S MANDATORY TO PAY 10% TO 20% OF WHAT YOU HAVE TO YOUR FINDER.
THEY'LL HAVE CHECKED NEAR THE ROOTS OF MAN-EATING PLANTS FIRST THING.
IF CORPSES LIE AROUND HERE, PEOPLE NOTICE THEM FAST.
WE'RE STILL JUST TWO FLOORS UNDERGROUND.
DON'T WORRY.
ONE AT THE ROOT THERE.
THAT YELLOW THING ON THE OTHER SIDE ISN'T RIPE YET.
I SEE.
TWO OVER THERE.
IT'S DIFFERENT IN THE DEPTHS, BUT NOBODY BECOMES MONSTER CHOW UP HERE.
YOU THINK?
BA (PHT)
OUT OF THE WAY!
BRAGGGG...
PICKING THEM DISCREETLY WOULD BE NIGH IMPOSSIBLE.
YEP. WE'LL HAVE TO FIGHT.


I'LL TAKE CARE OF ALL OF THEM AT ONCE.
AY-
HUH?
STOP, YOU FOOL!


WHAT—?
GYU (CINCH)
GYURURU (WRAP)
AAAUGH!!
WERE YOU PLANNING TO BLOW ALL THE FRUIT AWAY WITH MAGIC TOO?
WHA ...!?
TAKE ONLY WHAT YOU'LL EAT.
THAT'S AN IRON-CLAD RULE.
THIS IS NOT THE TIME!

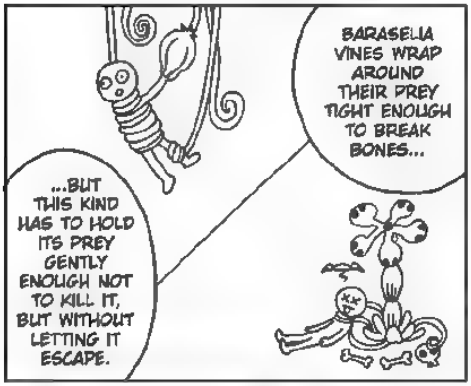

どん
DON (SLUMP)
ガチ
GACHI (CLICK)
LET GO—
NO! NO, NO!
バタ
BATA (FLAIL)
ミシ
MISHI (CREAK)
NHI
どちゃ
DOCHA (SPLOOSH)
スル
SURU (GLIDE)
UWAAAA
WHO SAID THEY CAN'T DIGEST THINGS!?
IT TOTALLY ATE THAT MAN!
HE'S A CORPSE RETRIEVER
HUH? NO, SOME OF THEM CAN.
IT DEPENDS ON THE VARIETY.
WENT FOR WOOL AND CAME HOME SHORN HIM?
BY THE WAY, MARCILLE, YOURS IS PARASITICAL. IT EMBEDS ITS SEEDS UNDER ITS PREY'S SKIN, AND...
WATCH OUT FOR THE FLOWERS' THORNS!
THAT'S EVEN WORSE!


PLANT MONSTERS HAVE MANY ARMS.
IF I FIGHT EACH OF THEM SEPARATELY, WE'LL BE HERE ALL DAY.
THERE'S JUST ONE PLACE TO CUT THEM.
THE ROOT!
DON'T MOVE AROUND TOO MUCH, MARCILLE.


OUCH...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
TH-THANKS, LAIOS...


BARA
BARA (PLOP)
GOSU (WHUNK)


HUH?
HOW WAS IT?


BARASELIA VINES WRAP AROUND THEIR PREY TIGHT ENOUGH TO BREAK BONES...
...BUT THIS KIND HAS TO HOLD ITS PREY GENTLY ENOUGH NOT TO KILL IT, BUT WITHOUT LETTING IT ESCAPE.


IT'S A PARASITICAL PREDATOR THAT PLANTS ITS SEEDS UNDER THE SKIN OF OTHER CREATURES.
THIS KIND IS CALLED A SHADOW-TAIL.
PREY'S SKIN
SEEDS
THEY GROW RIGHT THERE.



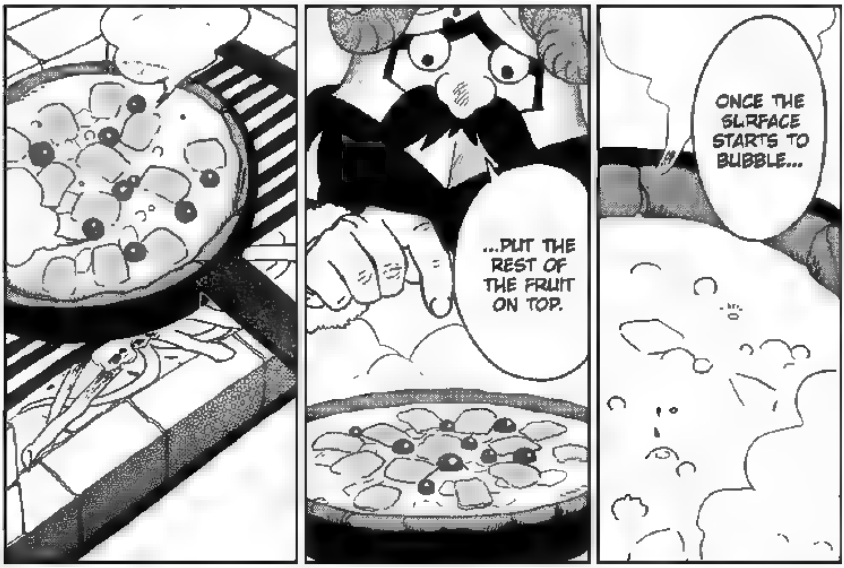

I IMAGINE IT MUST FEEL REALLY GOOD.
HOW WAS IT?


THE WAY THEY WRAP AROUND YOU...
THAT DELICATE BALANCE, WHERE YOU CAN'T MOVE BUT ITS GRIP ISN'T UNCOMFORTABLE...


IS THIS ABOUT ENOUGH?
I MADE HER MAD AGAIN.
EVEN I THOUGHT THAT WAS PUSHING IT.


STEAM 'EM LIGHTLY FIRST.
ZURURU (GLIDE)
...THEN PULL.
...TWIST IT A BIT...
KURU (TURN)
CUT AROUND THE STEM...
THE SEEDS COME RIGHT OUT THAT WAY.
OOOH!
GOOD (PWOOH)
AAUGH!
I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT!
GIVE ME WHAT YOU JUST PUT IN YOUR ARMOR!
I WANT TO SEE IF THESE CAN GROW ABOVE-GROUND.
GOSO (RSTL)
HEY!

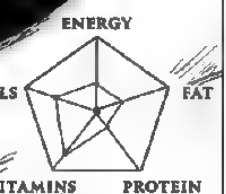

...ADD SOME SLIME AND A LITTLE SCORPION BROTH...
MASH THE UNRIPE FRUIT...
REMOVE THE PEELS, THEN POUND 'EM TILL THEY'RE SOFT.
BAN (BANG)
BAN
GAN (WHAM)
COVER THE BOTTOM OF A FRYING PAN WITH THEM.
GYU (KNEAD)
GYU
GYU
GIVE IT A FEW GOOD STIRS.
SAKU (WHISK)
SAKU
ONCE IT'S SMOOTH ...
...ADD THE REST OF THE SCORPION BROTH AND THE CHOPPED FRUIT.
...THEN MIX IT UNTIL IT GETS STICKY.
NUCHI
NUCHI
NUCHI
NUCHI (SPLAT)
THEN HEAT IT FOR A WHILE.
POUR IT INTO THE FRYING PAN.
DERE (DRIBBLE)




## MAN-EATING PLANT TART

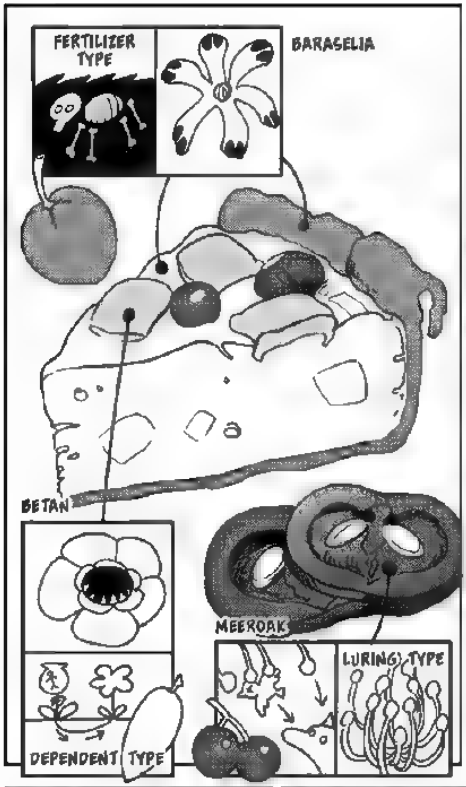
**Ingredients (Serves 3~4)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Leftover scorpion broth (from lunch) | 200 ml |
| Slime gelatin | 80 g |
| Baraselia | 3 medium |
| Meeroak | 5~6 medium |
| Betan | 3 medium |
| Salt | To taste |
| Pepper | A pinch |




EEK!


EVEN THOUGH YOU DIDN'T USE EGGS OR FLOUR..
IT...
IT'S A TART.
IT ONLY LOOKS LIKE ONE.
ZAK-(SLICE)
THE PEELS WERE JUST TO KEEP IT FROM SCORCH-ING.
IT LOOKS RIGHT
YOU CAN LEAVE 'EM. DON'T EAT 'EM.
TRY IT, MARCILLE.
I THINK YOU'LL LIKE THE FLAVOR.
YEAH. IT'S GOOD.
IT'S NOT SWEET.
IT'S SALTY.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I EX-PECTED.


FERTILIZER TYPE
BARASELIA
BETAN
MEEROAK
LURING TYPE
DEPENDENT TYPE


IT DOESN'T.
JIRO (GLARE)
じぃ
じろ
JIRO
YOU'RE SURE IT DOESN'T HAVE FRUIT FROM THAT ONE PLANT IN IT?


SLIME DOESN'T SET UP WELL.
BOSO (MUTTER)
IF I'D USED THE GELATIN THAT BULBS UP IN THAT PLANT...
...THIS WOULD'VE HELD TOGETHER BETTER THOUGH.


OH! IT'S...
IT'S REALLY GOOD.




PAKU (MUNCH)
ぱく


IF THEY TASTE GOOD, WON'T OTHER ANIMALS EAT THEM?
STILL, IS THIS OKAY?
THE FERTILIZER TYPES ARE JUICY AND SWEET.
THE DIGESTING TYPES ARE DENSE AND FULL FLAVORED.
PUTTING OUT FRUIT, JUST TO HAVE IT GET EATEN...
SHAKU (CRUNCH)
MOKU MOKU (CRUNCH)
もくもく
HUH! SO BEING DELICIOUS IS PART OF ITS STRATEGY.
I SEE, I SEE.
OH, I GET IT.
WELL, THEY'RE CARNIVOROUS.
THEY TRAP ANIMALS THAT COME FOR THE FRUIT AND USE THEM AS FOOD.
NO! NO, I'M NOT!
STOP IT!
THAT MAKES ME VERY HAPPY, MARCILLE.
YOU'RE STARTING TO TAKE AN INTEREST IN THIS.
AH!


HAAH!...
CLEAN AFTER USE
GOSH!
...SH (SCRUB)
DD
SHOULD I RES-URRECT HIM WITH MAGIC?
BETTER NOT.
THAT COULD GO WRONG.
...AND? WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH THE CORPSE?
THEY DID BRING HIM THIS FAR.
WE CAN'T GO BACK TO THE TOWN NOW.
I'M A LITTLE WORRIED.
LET'S MAKE SURE HE'S EASY TO SPOT...
IF WE LEAVE HIM SOME-WHERE REALLY VISIBLE, SOME-BODY'LL PICK HIM UP.
YOU'RE RIGHT.


.....
I'VE SEEN THIS SORT OF THING AT AN EXECUTION.
MAR-CILLE HAD A FEW BAD DREAMS THAT NIGHT.
HM

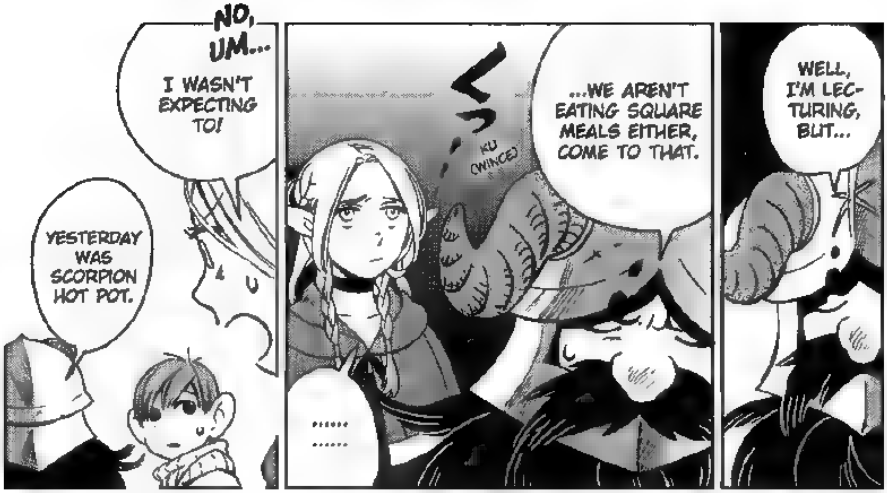
# 3. Roast Basilisk



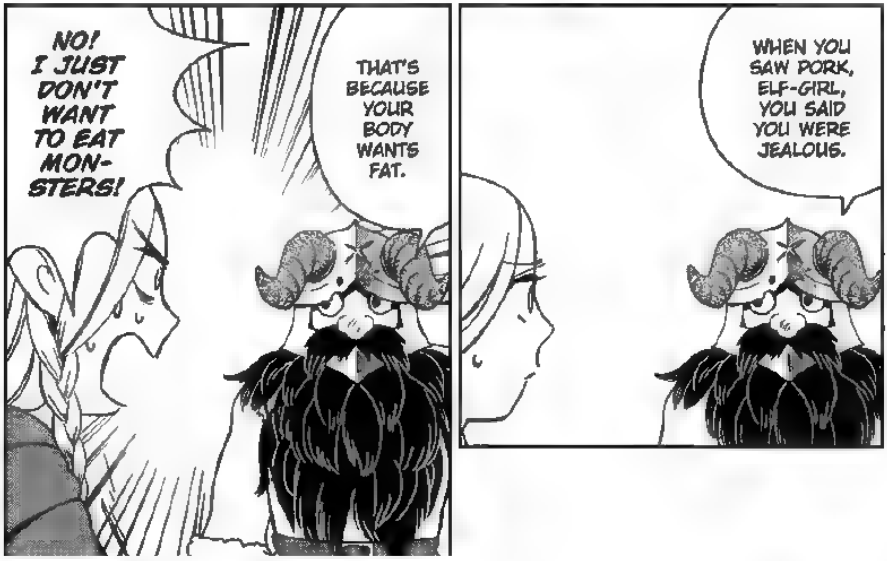

I'M BACK, MOTHER.
WELCOME HOME, MARCILLE.
WHAT'S THIS? SOMETHING SMELLS AMAZING.
U FU FU.
PUWA CHAN?
PYON
BOUNCED
HUH!? REALLY!?
EAT TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT.
TODAY'S YOUR BIRTHDAY, AFTER ALL.
WE'RE HAVING ALL YOUR FAVORITES.
WOOOW...
SEE? ALL THE THINGS YOU LOVE...
...HARVESTED FROM THE DUNGEON.


AAAAGH!!
NIGHT-MARE...
WHAT'S WRONG, MAR-CILLE?
IT'S JUST LIKE THE ONE IN MY DREAM!!
WHAT'S THAT SMELL!?
ふわ～
Ahh
FUWAA
GABA (BOLT)
THEY'RE PROBABLY ROASTING MEAT.
ANOTHER PARTY'S MAKING BREAK-FAST OVER THERE.
LOOKS GOOD, DOESN'T IT?
...AND EATING IT!!
I'M SO JEAL-OUS!
THEY'RE GRILLING SALT PORK...
...PUTTING IT ON BREAD...


100 Adventurers' Response to: "What Do You Usually Eat in the Dungeon?"
Other
Dried Meat
Wine
Bread
Year 513 Survey
What do young adventurers eat these days?
Bread! Dried meat! Wine!
Truly deplorable.
That's awful.
Just adding a side of man-eating plants or walking mushrooms would make a big difference, but...
Malnutrition is scarier than monsters.
The fat in meat helps give you the energy to explore the dungeon. It's important, but it's not enough.
Atrocious.
...young adventurers don't know that.
Just filling one's tummy isn't enough.
Breakfast: yesterday's leftovers (man-eating plant fruit)


NO, UM...
I WASN'T EXPECTING TO!
YESTERDAY WAS SCORPION HOT POT.
くっ
KU (WINCE)
...WE AREN'T EATING SQUARE MEALS EITHER, COME TO THAT.
.....
.....
WELL, I'M LECTURING, BUT...


COMMON SENSE.
THEY'RE ALL RICH IN NUTRIENTS, BUT...
...DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S MISSING?
WE ALSO HAD FRUITS FROM THOSE MEAT-EATING PLANTS.


NO! I JUST DON'T WANT TO EAT MONSTERS!
THAT'S BECAUSE YOUR BODY WANTS FAT.
WHEN YOU SAW PORK, ELF-GIRL, YOU SAID YOU WERE JEALOUS.


PERFECT FOOD
EGGS ARE A PERFECT FOOD.
IF WE CAN GET EGGS TOO, THAT'S EVEN BETTER.
I WANT TO MAKE A POINT OF GATHERING THEM WHILE WE'RE IN HERE.
AND SO...
...TODAY WE'LL HUNT A MONSTER THAT'S RICH IN FAT.
"THAT" WHAT?
IT'LL HAVE TO BE THAT.
IN OTHER WORDS...
YOU MEAN THAT?
THE BODY OF A CHICKEN.
THE TAIL OF A SNAKE.
WITH LETHAL VENOM IN ITS FANGS AND SPURS.
THE KING OF SNAKES: THE BASILISK!!


CAN WE ACTUALLY CALL THAT "CHICKEN"?
IS IT CHICKEN? REALLY?
DUNNO.
LUCKY YOU, MARCILLE. SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE GETTING SOME CHICKEN.
CHICKEN...
OH...
A BASILISK, HUH?
MY IDEA OF A COOL MONSTER
I USED TO THINK THE MORE SPECIES A MONSTER WAS MADE OF, THE BETTER IT WAS.
THEY'RE REALLY COOL, AREN'T THEY!?
WITH JUST TWO SPECIES THOUGH, EACH HEIGHTENS THE CHARMS OF THE OTHER.
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO COMPARE THEIR TASTE WITH BASILISK.
THE COCKATRICES THAT LIVE A BIT DEEPER DOWN ARE ANOTHER SNAKE-TAILED SPECIES.
THAT'S QUITE AN AMBITION...
LOOKS A BIT REPTILIAN TOO
COOL
COOL
COOL
SPURS
UNEXPECTEDLY AGGRESSIVE
THE COMBINATION IS SIMPLE, YET PROFOUND.
IT SHOWED ME THE APPEAL OF CHICKENS, WHEN I'D ONLY EVER SEEN THEM AS POULTRY.


THERE'S A BASILISK NEST AROUND THERE.
BASILISKS LAY EGGS EVERY TWO OR THREE DAYS, LIKE CHICKENS.
TAKE CARE NOT TO STEP ON ANY.
THEY'RE MOSTLY UNFERTIL-IZED, AND THEY'LL BE SCATTERED AROUND THE NESTS.


AREN'T THEY KINDA LONG AND SKINNY?
MUNI MUNI
HERE, HOLD THIS.
AREN'T THEY KINDA SOFT?
THESE LOOK NEWLY LAID.
LET'S STEAL 'EM WHILE THE CAT'S AWAY.
AH-HA. HERE WE GO.
BRRRRR
EEEEK!
HURRY, SENSHI.
THAT'S A BASILISK WARNING CRY.
HOLD ON. I'LL WRAP THESE IN CLOTH.


HEY, THAT PARTY FROM EARLIER IS GETTING ATTACKED.
GYAAA!
GASU (GYASH)
THEN GO SAVE THEM ALREADY.
IT'S LIKE ASKING THEM TO KICK YOU IN THE BACK.
OH MAN...
THAT'S THE WORST WAY TO RUN FROM THEM.
BEE...
...


BA (LEAP)
!?
AIEE
BRAWK
BAWK
MAKE LOUD NOISES TO THREATEN THEM
BUK BUK
BUK
SPREAD YOUR ARMS AND LEGS SO YOU LOOK BIGGER.
JIRI (CREEP)
JIRI
BAWK
BUK
CHILCHUCK, WANT TO PRETEND WE DON'T KNOW HIM?
THAT'S ENOUGH TO KEEP THEM FROM RUSHING YOU IMMEDIATELY.
KAPPIRA
KLA
NU (LOOM)


!!SSS!!
RAI


BASILISKS HAVE HEADS ON THEIR TAILS AS WELL.
AT FIRST GLANCE, YOU'D THINK THEY HAVE NO BLIND SPOTS. HOWEVER...
...THEY ONLY HAVE ONE BODY.
IF YOU ATTACK FROM DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS AT THE SAME TIME AND DISTRACT IT...
...THOSE TWO BRAINS CONFUSE THE BODY FOR A MOMENT!


THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
OH...
HOW IS HIS WOUND?
LAIOS.
I'M SORRY.
UNFORTUNATELY, WE DON'T HAVE ANY ANTIDOTES ON US AT THE—
Y-YES...
DID YOU GET POISONED?
YOU GOT KICKED BY A SPUR, DIDN'T YOU?
DRAINING THE BLOOD
SENSHI SAYS WE DO.

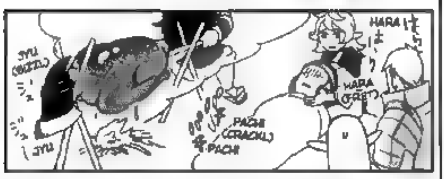

THAT'S GREAT. COULD WE GIVE THEM ONE?
I WAS PLANNING TO COOK WITH IT TODAY.
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU DON'T WANT TO.
DO WE REALLY HAVE AN ANTI-DOTE?
YEP.
HE'S DYING, AND YOU STILL...!
BUT HE'S DYING!
HUH!?
IF WE'RE FEEDING IT TO HIM, WAIT TILL I'M DONE COOKING.
THEN HURRY! HURRY AND MAKE IT!
THE ANTIDOTE TASTES BETTER COOKED THAN EATEN BY ITSELF.
HURRY UP! I WANT TO EAT RIGHT NOW!
WOW, AM I HUN-GRY. I REALLY WANT TO EAT.
IT'S A FINE THING TO HAVE A HEARTY APPETITE.
?
IT'S A BIT EARLY FOR LUNCH YET.
NO, NO, IT ISN'T.


MUSHI (PLUCK)
むし
MUSHI
むし
MUSHI
むし
SCALD IT LIGHTLY, THEN PLUCK IT.
GORI (CRUNCH)
CUT OFF THE LEGS AND THE TAIL.
DON (THUMP)
WHOA! IT REALLY LOOKS LIKE A CHICKEN.
EXCEPT IT'S HUGE.
TAKE OUT THE IN-NARDS.
RUB IN THE SPICES.
GURI
ぐり
GURI (RUB)
I'LL GET THE VEGETABLE-AND-HERB STUFFING READY.
LET'S ROAST IT RIGHT NOW, OKAY!?
GAKU (TREMBLE)
GAKU
GAKU (TREMBLE)
OVER-NIGHT, SAY.
IF YOU LET IT SIT AWHILE, THE FLAVORS WILL MARRY.


MANA HERB
•Full of mana
MEDICINAL HERB
•Good for external wounds
GOOD MEDICINAL HERB
•Really good for external wounds
DEPETRIFICATION HERB
•Cures petrification
DEPARALYSIS HERB
•Cures paralysis
BURN HERB
•Good for burns
ANTITOXIN HERB
•Neutralizes poisons
TO NEUTRALIZE THE BASILISK POISON OR SOMETHING?
OH. IS THAT WHY?
LIKE I SAID THIS MORNING, YOU CAN'T JUST EAT MEAT.
BESIDES, DEPENDING ON HOW YOU COOK 'EM, THEY CAN BE REAL GOOD.
I'VE NEVER ONCE THOUGHT THESE TASTED GOOD.
WHY MEDICINAL HERBS ANYWAY?
JI (STARE)
...
WHO KNOWS?
IT PROBABLY WON'T HURT YOU.
THIS IS AWKWARD.
...WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU EAT OINTMENT?
THIS LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOING TO BE HEALTHY.
STUPID QUESTION, BUT...

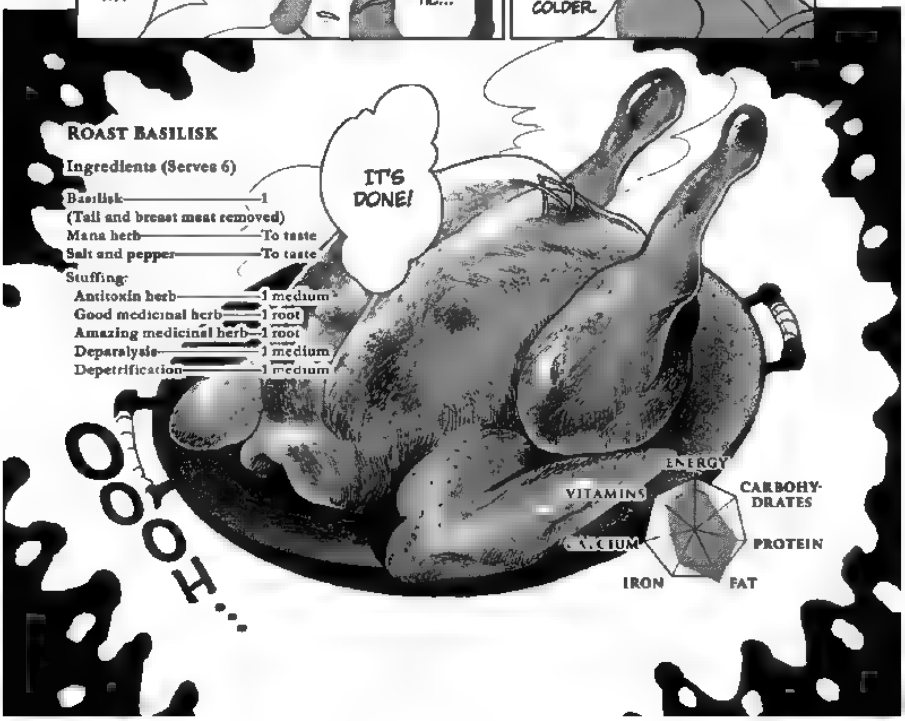

LIKI (GIDDY)
ウキ
WE'LL SMOKE SOME OF THE MEAT AND EGGS.
MAYBE MAKE SOUP WITH THE TAIL...
LIKI
ウキ
KYU (CONCH)
キュ
STUFF THE CAVITY WITH MINCED HERBS...
...THEN TIE UP THE CUT.
GASHA (CLANK)
ガシャ
RUN A SKEWER THROUGH THE MEAT.
THEN ROAST IT WELL.


FOR NOW, LET'S GET HIM NEAR THE FIRE.
THAT'S NOT GOOD.


JYU (SIZZLE)
JYU
PACHI (CRACK)
PACHI
HARA (?)
HARA (?)


.....
SOMETHING SMELLS FANTASTIC...
DOESN'T IT??


HOW'S YOUR COMPANION DOING?
HE HAD A FEVER JUST A BIT AGO, BUT HE'S GETTING COLDER AND COLDER.


ROAST BASILISK
Ingredients (Serves 6)
Basilisk——1
(Tail and breast meat removed)
Mana herb——To taste
Salt and pepper——To taste
Stuffing:
Antitoxin herb——1 medium
Good medicinal herb——1 root
Amazing medicinal herb——1 root
Deparalysis——1 medium
Depetrification——1 medium
IT'S DONE!
TOOO...
ENERGY
CARBOHYDRATES
PROTEIN
FAT
IRON
CALCIUM
VITAMINS


HURRY!
HURRY AND FEED HIM SOME!
MOGU (CHEW)
もぐ…
THE…
THE MEAT IS… NICE AND JUICY.
WE'RE REALLY SORRY ABOUT THIS!
DOES HIS COLOR LOOK A BIT BETTER?
HE'LL RECOVER SOON.
GASHI (GRAB)
がし
YOU OTHERS COME AND EAT TOO.
IT'S GONNA GET COLD.
WAIT A SECOND.
I'LL CAST A LITTLE RECOVERY SPELL ON HIM FIRST…


AH!
I HEAR SNAKE TASTES A LOT LIKE CHICKEN TOO THOUGH.
AND IT DOES TASTE JUST LIKE CHICKEN.
WING TIP
YUM!
WOW!
THEY COULD SERVE THIS AT THE DINING HALL IN TOWN!
AHH...
THAT FEELS MUCH BETTER.
I'M NOT VERY GOOD, BUT...
I'LL CAST THAT RECOVERY SPELL NOW.
I-I'M SORRY.
NEVER MIND THAT, HAVE SOME MORE.
THIS REALLY IS GOOD.
I'LL REPAY YOU FOR...
THIS ONE.
OOPS. WRONG ONE.
I'VE NEVER HAD PROPER FOOD LIKE THIS IN THE DUNGEON BEFORE.
YOU NEED TO KEEP YOUR DIET BALANCED.
.....
S...
SURE, WE'LL HAVE SOME.


U-UM...
OH BOY...
I'M STUFFED!
NOTHING SATISFIES QUITE LIKE MEAT.
WE AREN'T MAKING MUCH PROG-RESS.
WE ALWAYS GET WIPED OUT IN THE SAME PLACE.
WE'VE BEEN TRYING OUR LUCK IN THE DUNGEON FOR THREE MONTHS NOW, BUT WE...
UM...
WELL, UM...
...TO COOK MONSTERS THE WAY YOUR GROUP DOES!?
LAIOS, SIR, HOW CAN WE GET STRONG ENOUGH...


REGU IME
REG-ULATE YOUR DAILY RHY-THMS!!
FIR—
ADD MODER-ATE EXER-CISE!
0,000 STEPS A DAY
FIRST, IMPROVE YOUR DIET!!
VICT ORY
WATCH THESE THREE POINTS...
...AND YOU'LL NATURALLY WORK YOUR WAY TOWARD STRONG BODIES !!




CHAPTER 3: THE END

# 4. Omelet

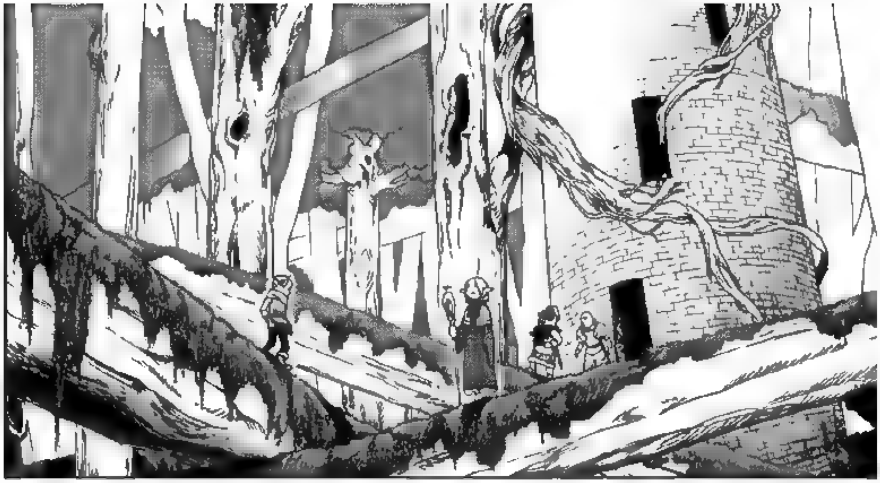



TO (TAP)
HMM...
GISHI (CREAK)
GISH
TON (TAP)
I WOULDN'T RECOMMEND EATING BASILISK RAW.
EVIL CAMPYLOBACTER
IT'S BECAUSE WE SPENT SO MUCH TIME ROASTING THAT THING.
WE AREN'T MAKING GOOD TIME.
I GUESS WE WON'T REACH THE THIRD FLOOR TODAY.
I REALLY WANT TO FIND IT BEFORE ITS STOMACH'S EMPTY AGAIN.
THEN IT'S ASLEEP WITH A FULL STOMACH RIGHT NOW?
THAT MUST HAVE BEEN WHEN WE RAN INTO IT THE OTHER DAY.
I HEAR THE RED DRAGON WAKES UP ONCE A MONTH TO HUNT.


MARCILLE.
I'D LIKE TO MOVE A LITTLE FASTER...
GYAK!
WAIT A...
JITA (OUCH)
BATA (FLAIL)
GO (WHIRR)
I'M PERFECTLY FINE!
I CAN WALK LOTS MORE, NO PROBLEM!
GAKU
GAKU
GAKU (TREMBL)
...THIS MIGHT BE TOUGH.
WHY ARE ELVES SO SLOW ANY-WAY?
BOSO (MUTTER)
GAAAN (SHOCK)
...AND THEN GET HURT, YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO HOLD US BACK. ALL RIGHT!?
LIS-TEN.
IF YOU KEEP BLUFF-ING LIKE THAT...
DON'T PUSH YOURSELF. LET'S TAKE A BREAK.
I'M NOT PUSH-ING MY-SELF!
HAAH!


HM!?
THE BIG BATS WILL GET IN THE WAY THOUGH.
IT MIGHT BE EASIER TO TAKE THE OUTSIDE ROUTE.
NO. NO NEED.
BIG BATS? I COULD USE MY MAGIC TO—
IT'S FASTER TO HAVE CHILCHUCK DISARM THEM.
I COULD USE A TRAP-DISARMING SPELL TO—
WHY NOT TAKE THE SECRET PASSAGE?
IT'LL HAVE LOTS OF TRAPS, BUT NOT MANY MONSTERS.
THERE WAS ONE AROUND HERE.
CAN'T WE MAKE DO WITH THE LEFTOVERS FROM LUNCH?
THEY'RE JUST MEAT AND EGGS.
WE'LL NEED VEGETABLES.
THERE WON'T BE MANY MONSTERS?
IN THAT CASE, I'D LIKE TO GET OUR PROVISIONS SORTED NOW.


THERE'S A MANDRAKE COLONY NEAR HERE.
I'LL GO GET SOME WHILE THE ELF-GIRL'S RESTING.
MAN-DRAKES!
BA (WHIP)
I'M FINE ON MY OWN.
NO!
HANDLING MANDRAKES IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS.
AMATEURS WHO TRY PAY FOR IT DEARLY.
AND YOU'RE A PROF
I KNOW HOW TO PICK MAN-DRAKES!
HERE! OVER HERE!
LET ME HANDLE THAT!




I WANT ALL OF YOU TO FOLLOW MY ORDERS THIS TIME.
IN OTHER WORDS, THIS IS MY FIELD.
YOU'RE ALWAYS COMPLAINING ABOUT THIS STUFF. WHY ARE YOU SO INTO IT TODAY?
MAN-DRAKES ARE A FUNDA-MENTAL OF MAGIC AND MEDICINE.


WE'LL BE THAT MUCH FARTHER FROM RESCUING FALIN.
IF THAT HAPPENS, WE'LL BE WIPED OUT.
TO MAKE SURE THAT DOESN'T HAP-PEN...!
IF YOU HEAR IT, YOU'LL GO INSANE. IT MIGHT EVEN KILL YOU.
WHEN MAN-DRAKES ARE PULLED FROM THE GROUND, THEY SCREAM.

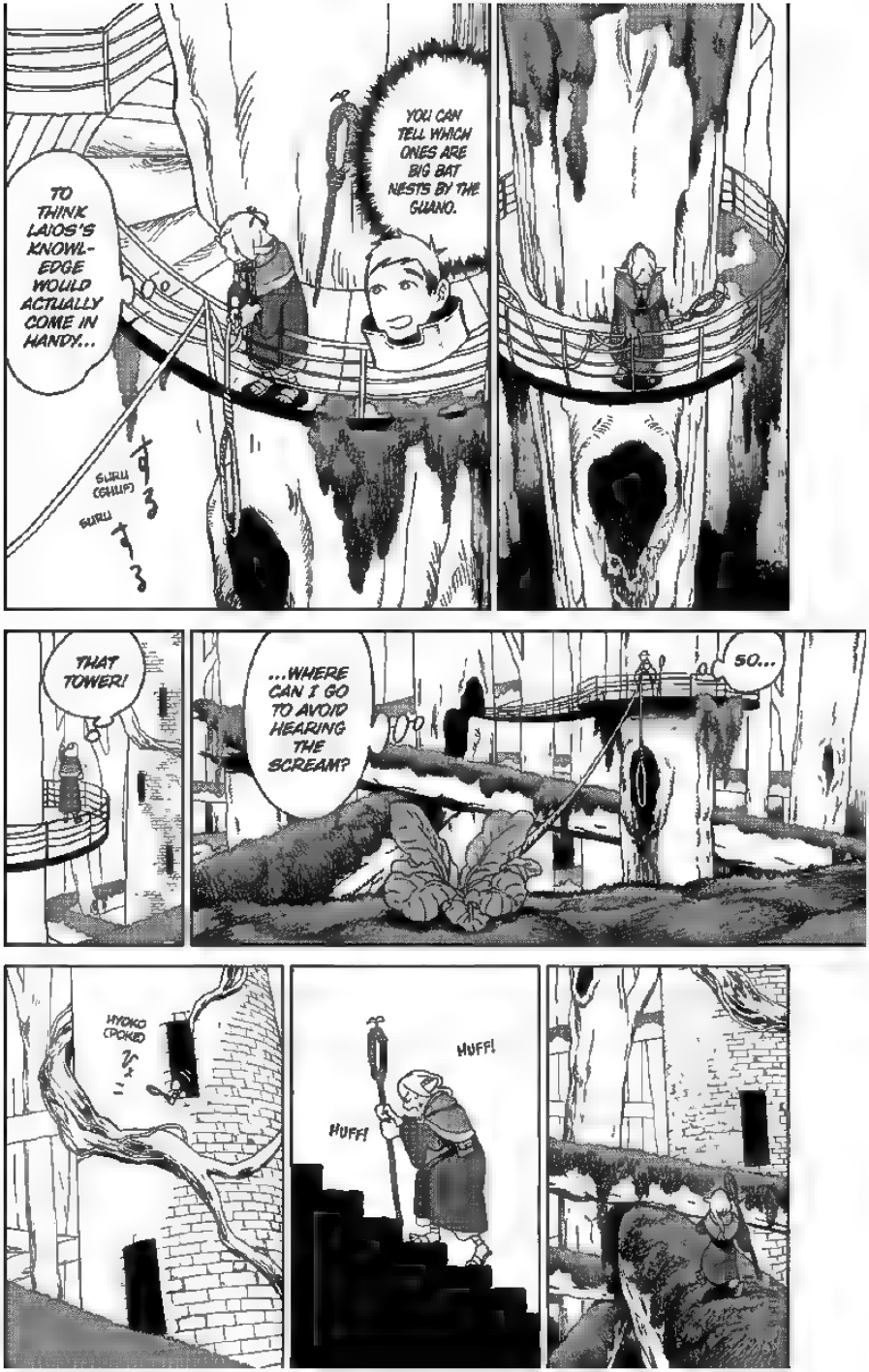

FIRST, WE NEED A CORD AND A WELL-TRAINED DOG.
A DOG?
TIE THE DOG'S COLLAR TO THE MANDRAKE.
MOVE BACK SOME DISTANCE, THEN CALL THE DOG.
THE DOG PULLS ON THE MANDRAKE, AND IT COMES OUT!
WHAT ABOUT THE DOG?
IT DIES...
HUH!? THAT'S MEAN!
NO, I MEANT, WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO GET THE DOG?
AND ANYWAY, ISN'T THAT METHOD REALLY INEFFICIENT?
UH...
BUT AT SCHOOL, THEY...
COULDN'T WE JUST USE A LONG CORD?
HUH?
USE A CORD LONG ENOUGH THAT WE WON'T BE ABLE TO HEAR THE MANDRAKE.
I CAN'T HEEEAR YOU!
HUH?
THEN WE WOULDN'T NEED THE DOG.
BWEH?

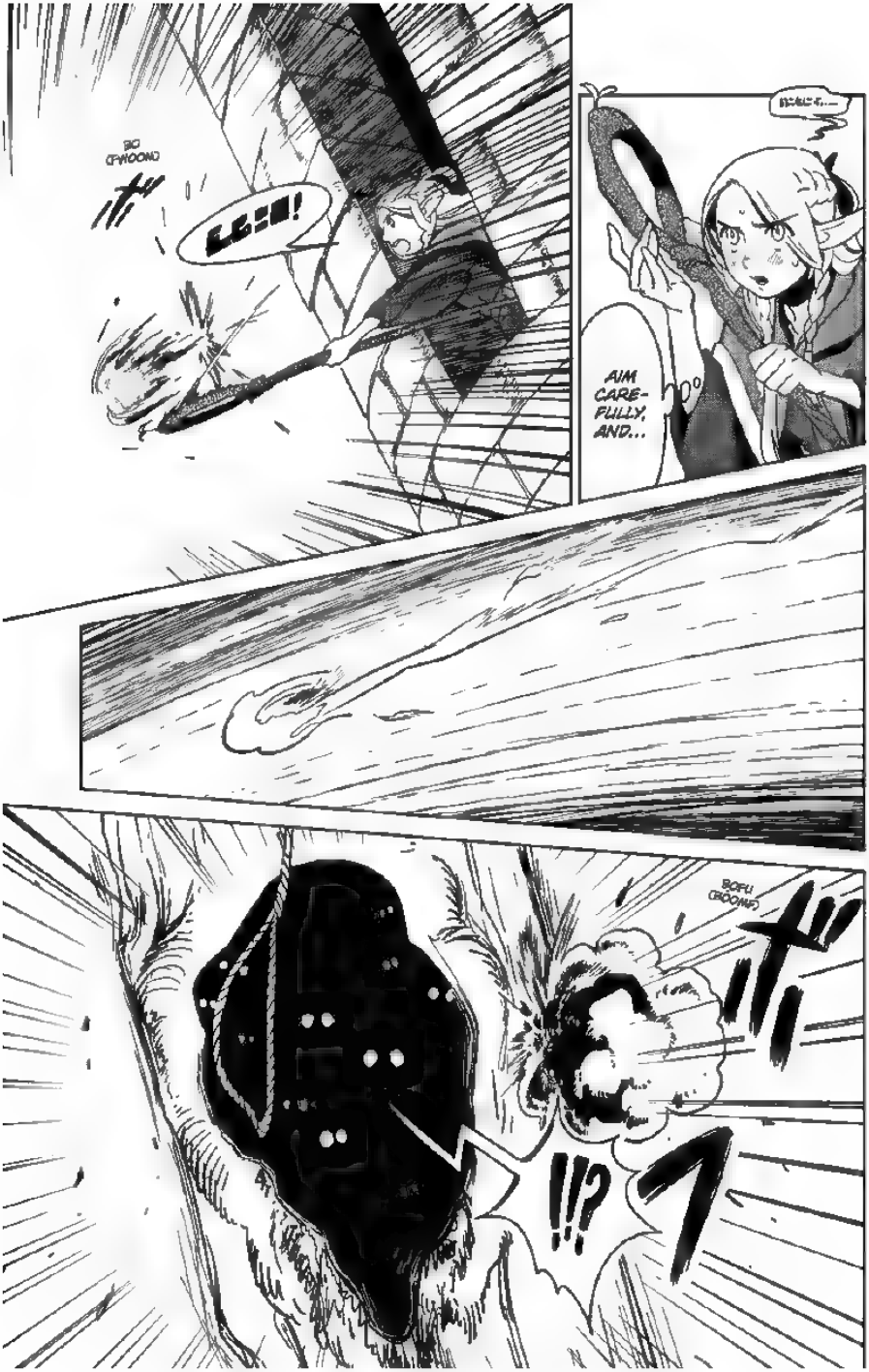

I... DON'T THINK THAT'S OKAY.
BE-CAUSE, UM... IT'S HARD TO ADJUST THE PULL FORCE? MAYBE ...?
DOSU. (WHUMP)
ど す
ガ!!
GUI (TUG)
A A A A A A A A
来ぁぁ
POI (TOSS)
DOSU. (SMUNK)
ド!!
DOKI (SHUMP)
DOKI
DOKI
SO THAT SCREAM WAS MARCILLE?
THAT SCARED ME...


THIS IS TRUE.
IT'S EASY IF YOU CUT OFF THEIR HEADS BEFORE THEY SCREAM.
THEY CAN'T MAKE A SOUND WITHOUT THEIR HEADS.
NO, NO, NO.
AH!
HAVE YOU EVER USED THE METHOD FROM THAT BOOK, MARCILLE?
BUT SENSHI HAS ACTUAL EXPERIENCE.
DOG
NOTHING'S RISKIER THAN THAT SORT OF AMATEUR MOVE!!
THOSE AREN'T MUSHROOMS OR MOUNTAIN HERBS, YOU KNOW
NO, NO WAY! THAT'S DANGEROUS!
I'VE EATEN 'EM THIS WAY FOR YEARS.
.....
.....
...YES.
WHAT, SERIOUSLY? THE POOR DOG.
I NEVER HAVE...
BECAUSE, I MEAN...
...THE POOR DOG...


...THEN A SPECIALIZED, TIME-TESTED BOOK WOULD HAVE SAID SO.
BUT IF A METHOD THAT EASY WAS OKAY...
WE'LL JUST USE SENSHI'S METHOD.
ANYWAY, THERE'S NO DOG HERE, AND WE DON'T HAVE TIME.
I'LL PROVE THIS METHOD MAKES SENSE!
IN THAT CASE, WHY NOT SHOW THEM?
HE'S RIGHT. ON ITS OWN, BOOK KNOWLEDGE ISN'T VERY PERSUASIVE.
THAT SAID, I CAN'T USE A DOG, SO...
HEH.
YOU'RE FORGIVEN.
WE'RE SORRY WE SAID YOU WERE HOLDING US BACK!


I'LL TIE A ROPE AROUND A MANDRAKE, HANG THE OTHER END IN FRONT OF A NEST...
...STARTLE THE BIG BAT, AND PULL OUT THE MAN-DRAKE!
THE MONSTERS AROUND HERE ARE BIG BATS.
THEY SHOULD BE ASLEEP IN THEIR NESTS NOW.
...I'LL USE A MONSTER TO PULL IT OUT!
SHURU (COIL)
SHURU
KURU (WIND)
KURU
KOGO (SNEAK)
KOGO
THE BOOK DIDN'T SAY HOW TIGHT IT SHOULD BE.
IS THIS RIGHT?
GYU (CINCH)


TO THINK LAIOS'S KNOWL-EDGE WOULD ACTUALLY COME IN HANDY...
YOU CAN TELL WHICH ONES ARE BIG BAT NESTS BY THE GUANO.
SUIRI (THINK)
SUIRI
THAT TOWER!
...WHERE CAN I GO TO AVOID HEARING THE SCREAM?
SO...
HYOKO (POKE)
HUFF!
HUFF!


BIG (FWOOM)
HEH!
AIM CARE-FULLY, AND...
BOFU! (BOOMF)
!!?


げ
BA (PWOOSH)
CL
SHURU (SLIP)
GU (SNAG)
NO GOOD!?
BIN (TUG)
SHURURURU (PWERRR)
NOW THE MAN-DRAKE WILL GET...
YESSS!


AAA
AAA
AAA


HUH?
AT LEAST NOW I KNOW WHY YOU SHOULDN'T USE BIG BATS INSTEAD OF DOGS.
WAIT...
NO.
ACTUAL PRACTICE REALLY IS IMPORTANT.
M-MARCILLE...
DOGOMU OKABOOMO
GEHI
BECAUSE THE CRAZED BIG BAT MIGHT FALL ON YOU WITH THE MANDRAKE.


WHAT HAP-PENED?
OH. SHE'S ALIVE.
DOTA (STOMP)
ドヤ
DOTA
ドた
IS SHE DEAD!?
THAT WAS DUMB.
YOU USED A BIG BAT INSTEAD OF A DOG.
GYO (FLINCH)
キョ
AGH!!
MAR—
HEY, MARCILLE? CAN YOU HEAR ME?


KEEP TALKING TO HER.
SHE SHOULD GET MORE LUCID.
WHY DID YOU DO THIS?
NO, YOU'RE REALLY NOT.
SHE HEARD THE SCREAM.
I'M THE VERY PICTURE OF HEALTH, GOOD SIR.
YES.
WHAT'S WITH THIS CHICK?
SO I THOUGHT, "I WANT TO STICK IT TO THESE LOSERS AND MAKE THEM GROVEL."
CHIL-CHUCK!
I WAS ANXIOUS BECAUSE SOMEONE SAID I WAS HOLDING YOU BACK.
OH!
I'M SOR—
GIMME A ROPE.
I AM UNABLE TO DO ANYTHING FOR YOU, AND IT'S LONELY.

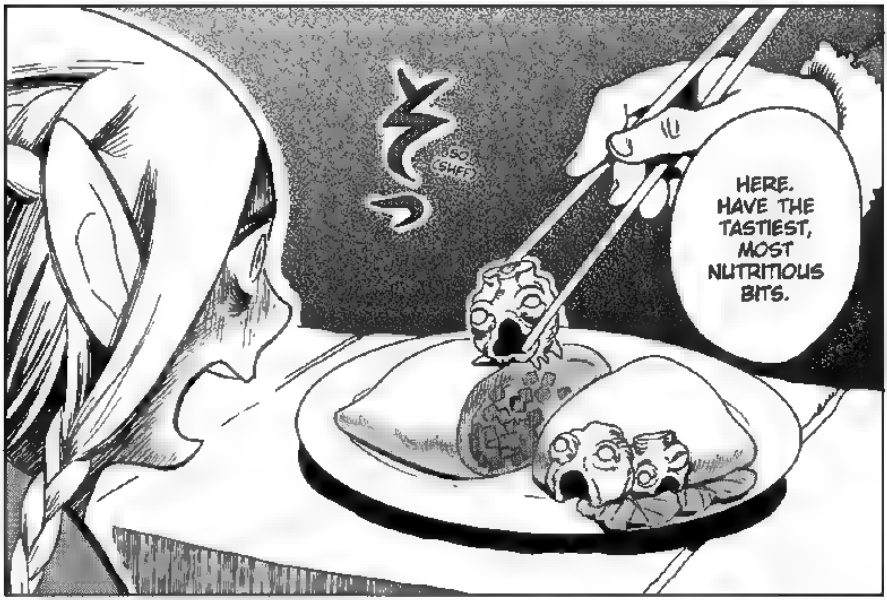

EVERYONE HAS THEIR STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES.
DRAINING THE BLOOD
YOUR MAGIC WILL BE OUR BIGGEST ASSET.
I DIDN'T WANT TO TIRE YOU OUT ON THESE SURFACE LEVELS.
THE DEEPER INTO THE DUNGEON WE GO, THE STRONGER THE MONSTERS WILL GET.
GO ON, CHIL-CHUCK. YOU TOO.
YOU CAN RELY ON US A BIT MORE, YOU KNOW.
I WANT TO COUNT ON YOUR STRENGTHS.
OTHER PEOPLE WILL HANDLE THE THINGS YOU AREN'T GOOD AT.
YOU'RE ALREADY SANE AGAIN!
PUT MORE FEELING INTO IT...
I THINK WE'RE REALLY LUCKY YOU CAME WITH US, MARCILLE.


.....
PLAN (GRILLED)
OM-ELETS!
MAYBE I'LL MAKE OMELETS TODAY.
WOW! THAT SOUNDS ALMOST NOR-MAL...
TO THINK WE'D GET A BIG BAT TOO.
WHAT AN UNEX-PECTED HAUL.
THE BODY AND HEAD ARE CHICKEN.
BUT THE SNAKE IS JUST THE TAIL, RIGHT?
NO.
BATS DON'T LAY EGG.
THAT'S WHAT SNAKE EGGS ARE LIKE.
THEY'RE NOTH-ING LIKE CHICKEN EGGS.
ARE THESE REALLY BASILISK EGGS?
SURE THEY AREN'T BIG BAT EGGS?
...BUT THE LATEST RE-SEARCH SAYS...
THEY USED TO THINK THE SNAKE WAS THE TAIL...
PROFESSOR OKUDA
...WHEN IT'S CUT DOWN THE MIDDLE, THE CHICKEN DIES, BUT THE SNAKE LIVES.
I REALLY DIDN'T WANT TO KNOW THAT NOW.
MAIN BODY
TAIL
THE CHICKEN...
...IS THE TAIL.
GRAAAN (SHOCK)


YOU'RE RIGHT.
THIS ONE'S BRIGHTER.
IT STILL HAS ITS HEAD, SO IT'S THE ONE MARCILLE PICKED.
WHAT?
THE COLOR ON THIS ONE'S DIFFERENT.
JYARI (SCRIT)
JYARI
HM?
FRY THEM UP IN BACON FAT.
JUWAA (SIZZZ)
MINCE THE MANDRAKES.
HM?
MM-HM, MM-HM.
ONCE THEY'RE FLUFFY...
PON (TOSS)
JYUWA (WISSSS)
POUR THE EGGS OVER THEM.
BUCHU (SPLIT)
THESE EGGS HAVE NO WHITES.


MANDRAKE AND BASILISK OMELET
THEY'RE DONE!
WHOA!
ENERGY
CARBO-HYDRATES
PROTEIN
FAT
IRON
CALCIUM
VITAMINS
Ingredients (Serves 1)
Mandrake — 1 medium
Basilisk bacon (the nice, fatty stuff) — 50 g
Basilisk egg — 1
Salt and pepper — To taste
Ketchup — To taste
KICKING ME WHEN I'M DOWN, HM? THAT'S NASTY
NOW, NOW.
MORE RED THAN YELLOW, REALLY.
THEY'RE A LOT YELLOWER THAN CHICKEN EGGS.
I USED THE ELF-GIRL'S MANDRAKE IN THIS ONE.
THESE ARE THE MAN-DRAKES WE PICKED.


LETTING IT SCREAM MUST TAKE SOME SORT OF IMPURITY OUT OF IT.
MM-HM. IT'S GOOD.
MOGO OMUNCHO
THIS ONE DOESN'T TASTE BITTER. IT'S MELLOWER.
HM ...!
IT ISN'T A COOK-BOOK, OKAY!?
THANK YOU, MARCILLE.
YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND BOOK ARE WON-DERFUL.
...I WAS TOO FIXATED ON EFFICIENCY, AND I LOST SIGHT OF IT'S TRUE ESSENCE.
TAKING A LITTLE TROUBLE TO IMPROVE THE FLAVOR IS A FUNDA-MENTAL OF COOKING.
I GUESS...
THIS IS A SMALL TOKEN OF MY THANKS.
EO CREACIO
LISTEN TO ME!
YES, NICE TEXTURE.
WOW, THIS IS REALLY GOOD.
I JUST...
AND THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANTED TO PROVE!


GO (SHF)
HERE. HAVE THE TASTIEST, MOST NUTRITIOUS BITS.


I'M SICK OF EATING MON-STERS!!
WELL, ISN'T THAT NICE?
I DON'T WANT THEM!

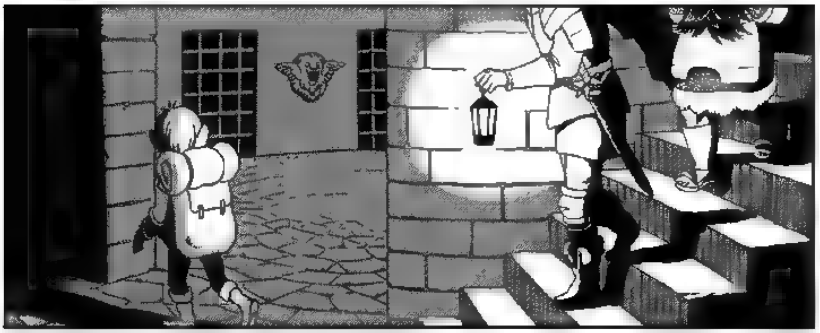


# 5. KAKIAGE




MARCILLE, LET ME BORROW YOUR STAFF A MINUTE.
EN-TRANCE?
IT WAS AROUND HERE, WASN'T IT?
THE ENTRANCE TO THAT SHORT-CUT?
NO. YOU'RE GOING TO WHACK THINGS WITH IT.
YOUR SWORD, THEN, LAIOS.
GOON CHWANG
GOON
GOON
GOON
GOON


ZU (SKRR)
ズズズズ…
GO (RUMBLE)
ゴゴゴゴゴ
OOOOH!
RIGHT HERE.
GAKON (CLANG)
ガコン
HE PROBABLY USED THE ECHOES TO ASSESS THE BUILDING'S STRUCTURE.
HEAVY.
CHILCHUCK'S AN EXPERT AT LOCATING TRAPS AND OPENING LOCKS.
HE'S A HALF-FOOT, AND HIS RACE HAS SHARP SENSES.
WHAT JUST HAPPENED?
?
WHAT I HATE MOST...
...IS HAVING OTHER PEOPLE GET IN MY WAY WHEN I WORK.
DON'T MOVE UNTIL I GIVE THE WORD.
JUST SO YOU KNOW...
...THERE ARE TONS OF TRAPS IN THERE.




HE'S LIGHT, SO HE DOESN'T SET OFF TRAPS EASILY.
HOLD IT.
I'LL GO FIND THE TRAPS. WAIT HERE.


YOU CAN STEP HERE, HERE, AND ON THIS TILE.
YES. YES.
HM.
MM-HM.
HMMMM.

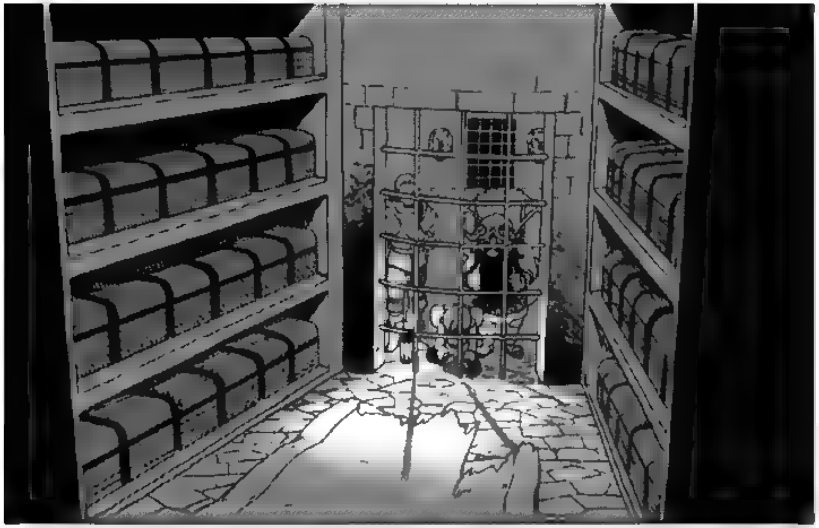

YEEP!!
GAKO (SHUNK)
ZUSH! (STONE)
KACH! (CLICK)
YOU'RE WAY OVER THE EDGE!
I TOLD YOU TO STEP ONLY WHERE I SAID TO STEP!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
JUST DO WHAT I TELL YOU TO D—
IF ONE OF THEM MOVES, ALL MY CALCU-LATIONS GO RIGHT OUT THE WIN-DOW!!
SOME TRAPS WORK TOGETHER; SOME AFFECT EACH OTHER...
DON'T CAUSE ME TROUBLE! DON'T TREAT THIS LIGHTLY!!
NOW IS NOT THE TIME!!
I DON'T LIKE THIS FIDDLY STUFF.


ZAN (SMASH)!!
SFX: GARA (RATTLE) GARA GARA GARA
WAI—
ZUN (STOMP)
AAAH!
ZUN
GOOOOOOO (WHOOSH)
ZUN
カチ
KACHI (CLICK)

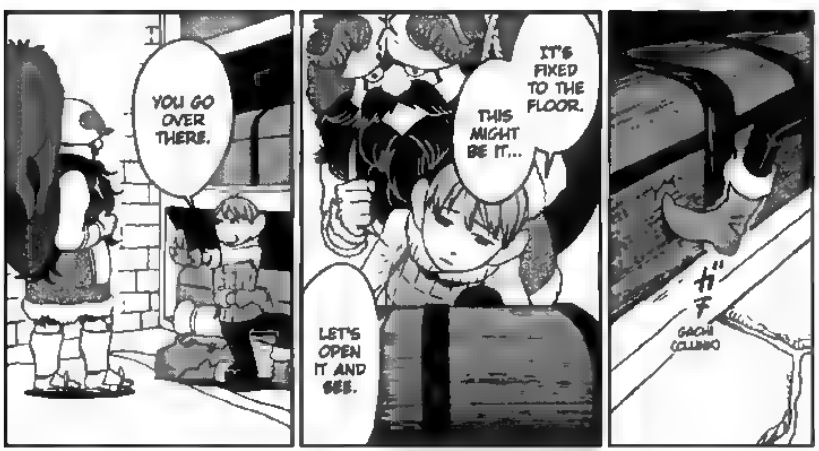

OH....
MOST FIRE TRAPS HAVE OIL OR FUEL MECHANISMS NEAR THEM.
I'M REALLY NOT UP FOR A WHOLE ROASTED DWARF, THANKS.
I SEE. THERE REALLY ARE ALL SORTS OF TRAPS.
WHAT A FIERCE FIRE.
ゴオオオオ
JUST MOVE YOUR FOOT ALREADY!!
DEEP-FRIED...
FRIED...
NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
ROASTED WHOLE?
HUH?
KAKIAGE!!!


WHERE IS THIS OIL MECHA-NISM OF YOURS?
NO WAY...
YOU CAN'T EAT THAT STUFF.
LET'S HAVE TEMPURA FOR LUNCH TODAY.
HALF-FOOT CHILD...
YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY BE AN OIL EXPERT.
I'M NOT A CHILD.
WON'T KNOW UNTIL WE CHECK, WILL WE?
ALMOND
RAPESEED
CORN
SOY
LARD
OLIVE
OF THEM, PLANT OILS ARE IN THE MOST PLENTIFUL SUPPLY.
OIL COMES IN MANY DIFFERENT TYPES TOO.


IN EXCHANGE, FROM NOW ON WHEN WE'RE AROUND TRAPS, YOU DO EXACTLY AS I SAY!!
IF YOU DON'T RESPECT THOSE TERMS, I'M NOT HELPING.
...ALL RIGHT !!
UGHK...
ANYWAY, I WANT TO SEE IT.
IF IT ISN'T EDIBLE OIL, I'LL GIVE UP.
MINE IS DISABLING TRAPS AND OPENING LOCKS.
YOURS IS COOKING.
LISTEN UP.
WE'VE ALL GOT SPECIALTIES.
MARCILLE'S IS MAGIC.
I DON'T NEED IT!!
IF NECESSARY, I'LL HELP YOU TOO.
I SWEAR.
BUT IF YOU EVER HAVE A REQUEST OR WANT TO HELP COOK, I'D WELCOME IT.
WHO WOULD EVER...?
GOOD
...I'LL DO THAT, THEN
SO YOU KEEP YOUR NOSE OUT OF MY JOB.
I DON'T MEDDLE WITH YOUR COOKING METHODS.




ALL THOSE TRAPS ARE PROBABLY TO PROTECT THIS PLACE FROM INTRUDERS.
NOT THAT THERE'S ANYTHING LEFT IN HERE ANYWAY
TREASURE ROOM...
GARI (SCRAPE)
GARI


YOU GO OVER THERE.
LET'S OPEN IT AND SEE.
THIS MIGHT BE IT...
IT'S FIXED TO THE FLOOR.
ガチ
GACHI (CLUNK)


HM.
ALL OUR LIVES ARE IN HIS HANDS. THE BURDEN IS PROBABLY FRAYING HIS NERVES.
LOTS OF TRAPS KILL INSTANTLY.
HE'S USUALLY THE MOST MATURE ONE HERE, BUT...
PI (SKREEK)
A NOZZLE AND A TRIGGER...
YEAH, THIS IS IT.
MOTO (LOPE)
IT'S OPEN.
GYUU (TUG)
HUP!
KACHAN (CLANK)
RUN A THREAD THROUGH, CATCH IT, AND...


SU (SHUF)
MM.
IN THAT CASE, I'LL HOLD THE POT UP.
HM?
THIS IS A NOZZLE...
...SO IF YOU PULL THIS TRIGGER, THE OIL MIGHT COME OUT.
WHERE'S THE OIL? HOW DO WE GET IT OUT?
I DON'T KNOW.
JTRI (INCH) JTRI
DON'T WORRY.
NO WAY! THIS IS PROBABLY BOILING OIL!
NO, I'M GONNA WORRY!
YOU PULL THE TRIGGER.
HUH!?
GU (YANK)
DON'T COME CRYING TO ME!!
.....
I FELT REALLY BAD FOR HIM THAT TIME...
I GOT CAUGHT BY ONE OF THESE ONCE.
YOU DON'T DIE RIGHT AWAY, AND THAT MAKES IT WORSE.
IT'S FINE. JUST DO IT.


BUSHU (CROUCH)
HOT!!
HOTT!!
FOTO (CLUE)
PI (SPLIT)
HM.
'BOUT 180 DEGREES. A GOOD TEMPERATURE FOR FRYING.
WHAT, YOU'RE FINE WITH THAT SORT OF THING?
I'M FINE.
YOUR THUMB'S IN IT!
SHUU (HISSED)
WHAT DID I TELL YOU!?
OH MAN...
ARE YOU OKAY, SENSHI?


YOU'RE KIDDING.
YEP, THIS IS OLIVE OIL.
PERORI (LICK)
THIS FLAVOR ...
THIS AROMA ...
YOU THINK?
IT'S NOT SO STRANGE TO FIND IT USED IN A TRAP.
OLIVE OIL IS RELATIVELY EASY TO PRODUCE...
...AND I HEAR THIS USED TO BE AN OLIVE-GROWING REGION.
CAN'T WE USE THAT FALLING-BLADE TRAP TO CUT UP THE MEAT?
SAY...
IN ANY CASE, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO FRY WITH THIS.


I THINK IT WAS AROUND HERE...
YOU IDIOT!!
DO YOU WANT TO GET CUT IN HALF!?
ZAA (SKIMP)
THOSE THINGS DON'T ALWAYS COME DOWN IN THE SAME SPOT!
I TOLD YOU, DON'T MESS AROUND IN MY FIELD—
THEN I'LL LET YOU CUT THE MEAT.
DOS (WHUMP)
HUH?
AFTER AL., I DON'T KNOW HOW TO HANDLE TRAPS.
WHY DO I HAVE TO DO SOME-THING LIKE—
COOKING IS MY FIELD, SO YOU'LL FOLLOW MY ORDERS HERE.
THAT WAS THE DEAL, REMEM-BER?
I NEVER SA.D THAT.


ZAZAN (CRASHING)
SASA (SHUFF)
SA (SCOOT)
KYURARARA (SKREEKEEK)
PYON (HOP)
WHAT AM I DOING...?
HAAH...
ZAZAN (CRASHING)


.....
WHAT'S THE MATTER? HURRY UP.
ZUSHI (HEAVY)
すし
NEXT, HEAT THIS OIL WITH THAT FIRE TRAP.
I CUT UP THE BIG BAT.
AH. AND YOU DID IT VERY WELL.
SUU (SLIT)
SCORE IT LIGHTLY...
SKIN THE BIG BAT MEAT, THEN CHOP IT THICK.
NYU
GUNYU (SQUISH)
...KNEAD THE SEA-SONINGS IN...
WHILE WE'RE WAITING, I'LL GET THE MANDRAKE KAKIAGE READY.
ZZZ...
...THEN LET IT REST A BIT.


I WANT TO TAKE THEM HOME WITH ME.
HURRY AND THROW THEM OUT.
LOOK. THEY'RE SURPRISINGLY LIGHT, BUT THEY'RE STURDY.
HAAH. .
THERE WASN'T MUCH EDIBLE MEAT.
SUCH PRETTY BONES...
LIKE THIS.
IF YOU UNWRAP THEM A BIT, YOU CAN SNAP THEM OFF BY HAND.
...IT'S BEST TO TAKE THE LIMBS OFF FIRST.
(POKI) (SNAP)
WHEN PEELING MAN-DRAKES...
THE TORSO SHOULD BE PEELED WELL.
FOR THE LIMBS, JUST SHAVE OFF THE DARKER BITS.


CHA
CHA (WHISK)
MIX A BASILISK EGG INTO WATER.
TSU (SLIT)
MAKING THE BATTER...
...THEN PUT THE MANDRAKES INTO THE BATTER.
MIX IT LIGHTLY SO THAT IT DOESN'T CLUMP UP...
SAKU
SAKU (STIR)
TEN
TEN (WHAP)
SIFT IN WHEAT FLOUR.
MAYBE LIKE THIS?
GOOD (WHOOSH)
I HAVE NO IDEA.
LIKE I'D EVEN KNOW?
HOW'S THE FIRE LOOKING?
I'VE NEVER ADJUSTED THE HEAT ON A TRAP BEFORE, DAMMIT.

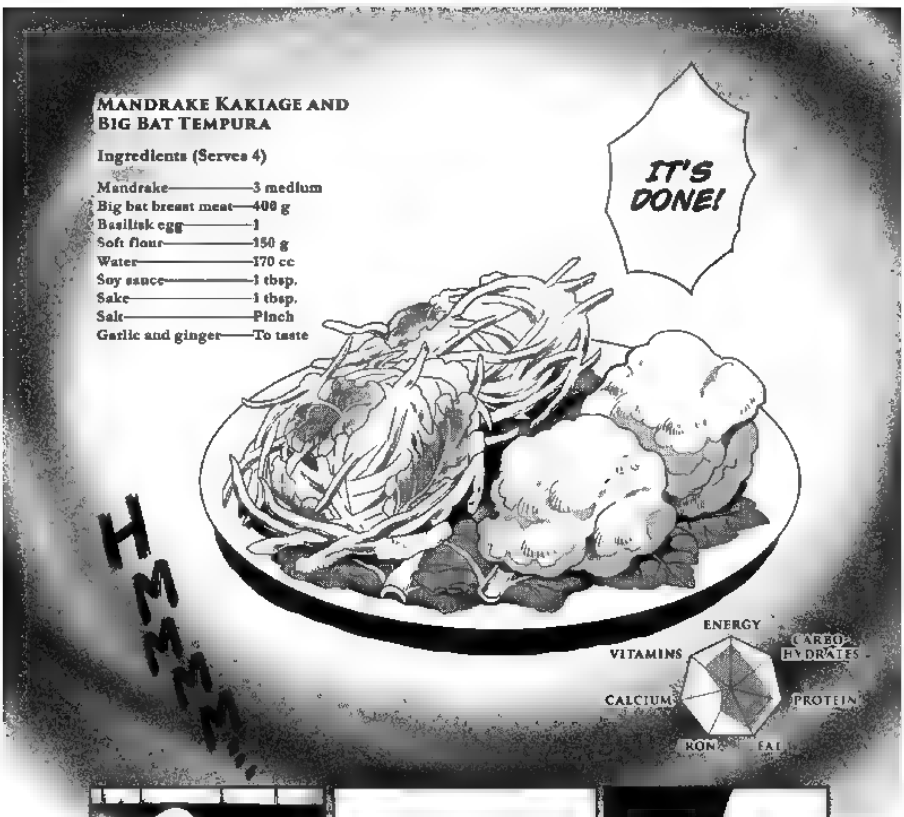

SCOOP UP THE MANDRAKES, THEN PUT THEM INTO THE OIL.
SHAWAWAWA
HM. PERFECT RIGHT THERE, I'D SAY.
NU (LOOM)
LET'S SEE.
SHUWAWAWA (SIZZLE)
PI (CHIP)
PI
BORO (CRUMBLE)
IS IT READY?
OOPS.
JI (STARE)
SHUWAWAWA
GOT THAT!?
O-OKAY.
ONCE THEY'RE FRIED UP ENOUGH TO HOLD TOGETHER, TURN 'EM OVER.
ARGH, IT BURNED.
MAYBE THE FIRE'S TOO LOW?
ZUGH! (HEAVY)
BO (FLARE)
DRAT, DRAT, DRAT.
RATS. I GUESS IT WAS A LITTLE TOO SOON.


FIRE, MAYBE, BUT HOW LONG TO FRY STUFF IS A COOKING THING.
BUT FIRE TRAPS ARE YOUR FIELD.
IT'S NOT. SWITCH WITH ME.
HOW'S IT GOING?
THEY SHOULD BE ABOUT READY.
ちら CHIRA (GLANCE)
THEN I GUESS IT'S NOT A TRAP THING.
IF IT'S TOO HIGH, THEY BURN IN SECONDS.
IF THE FIRE'S LOW, THEY GET SLOPPY.
THE COLOR'S PERFECT.

## Mandrake Kakiage and Big Bat Tempura

**Ingredients (Serves 4)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Mandrake | 3 medium |
| Big bat breast meat | 400 g |
| Basilisk egg | 1 |
| Soft flour | 150 g |
| Water | 170 cc |
| Soy sauce | 1 tbsp. |
| Sake | 1 tbsp. |
| Salt | Pinch |
| Garlic and ginger | To taste |

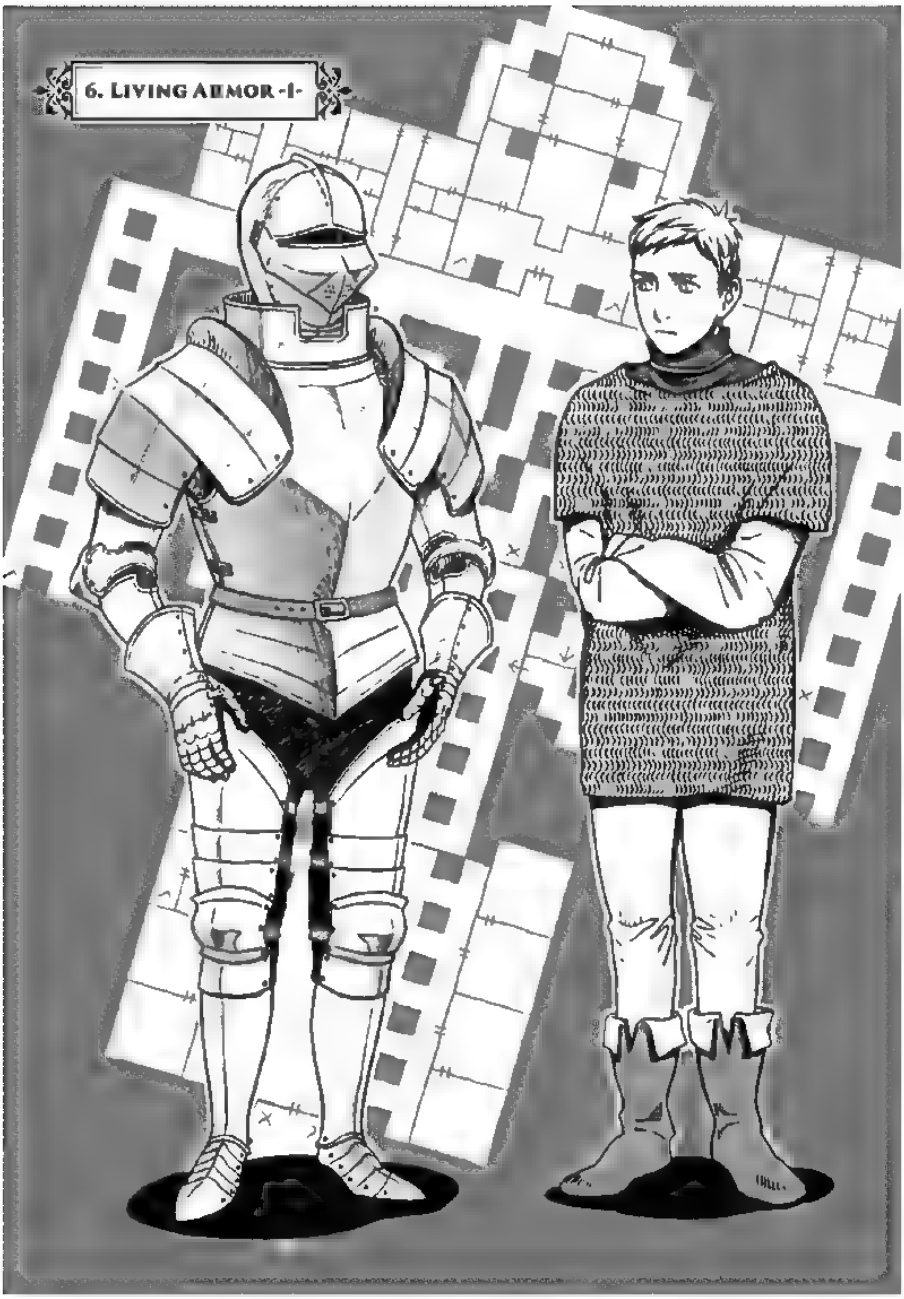






I'VE NEVER EVEN CONSIDERED DOING THAT.
IT'S PRETTY HARD TO FRY ON A CAMPFIRE.
YOU NEED TO FRY FOODS FAST AT THE RIGHT TEMPERATURE.
THEY COME OUT NICE AND CRISP THAT WAY.
THAT'S BECAUSE THE FIRE WAS GOOD.
YOU'LL DIE FOR SURE! I MEAN IT!
"CONVENIENT," HE SAYS...
LISTEN, DON'T TRY DOING THIS WHEN I'M NOT HERE!
KOFF
...BUT I DIDN'T KNOW SUCH A CONVENIENT ROOM EXISTED.
I WALK AROUND HERE ALL THE TIME...
...I WON'T BE ABLE TO WORK THIS PLACE ON MY OWN.
.....
IT'S A SHAME THAT ONCE WE PART WAYS...
IT'S REALLY ...
...TRULY WONDERFUL.
I KNOW.
I CAN'T MATCH YOUR SKILL WITH TRAPS, CHILCHUCK.

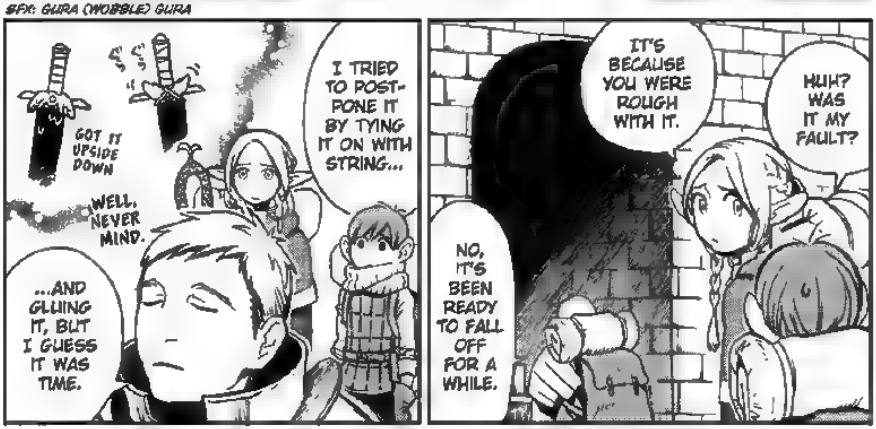

WELL..
YOU DID TEACH ME HOW TO COOK.
I DON'T PARTIC-ULARLY WANT TO, BUT...
IT'S YOUR FIELD...
YOU'RE SURE?
...FINE!
IN OUR SPARE TIME, I'LL TEACH YOU A LITTLE ABOUT TRAPS.


6. Living Armor -1-


IN MODERATION, FATIGUE MAKES FOOD TASTE BETTER.
"IN MODERATION," YES.
SURE, IT'S A SHORTCUT...
...BUT IF IT'S ALL STAIRS, IT'S TWICE AS TIRING.
ARGH, WHAT A PAIN.
GIMME YOUR SWORD.
IT'S A DEAD END.
GATSUN
GATSU CHNACKO
THERE'S A BUTTON AROUND HERE...




SFX: GURA (WOBBLE) GURA







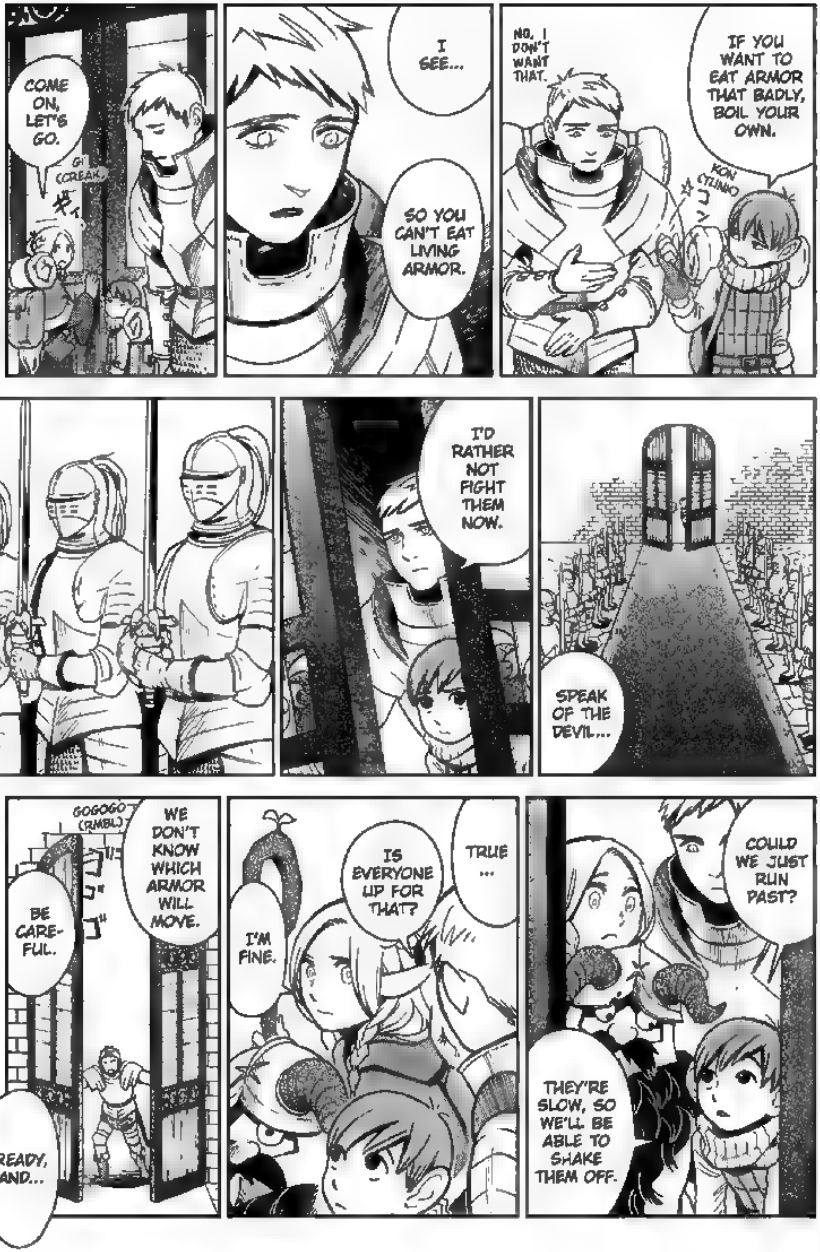
TO GET SOME EXPERIENCE, WE JOINED A BAND OF GOLD-PEELERS.
IT WAS THREE YEARS AGO. WE WERE JUST STARTING OUT.
HMM...
MOST OF THIS AREA'S BEEN PEELED ALREADY.
THIS WHOLE CASTLE USED TO BE COVERED IN GOLD. THEY TURNED A PROFIT BY STRIPPING IT OFF.
"GOLD-PEELERS"?
YEAH, BUT... WE CAN'T TURN BACK ON OUR OWN EITHER.
BIG BROTHER, THE CASTLE'S STILL TOO DANGEROUS FOR US.
LET'S SEE IF THERE'S ANYTHING INSIDE.

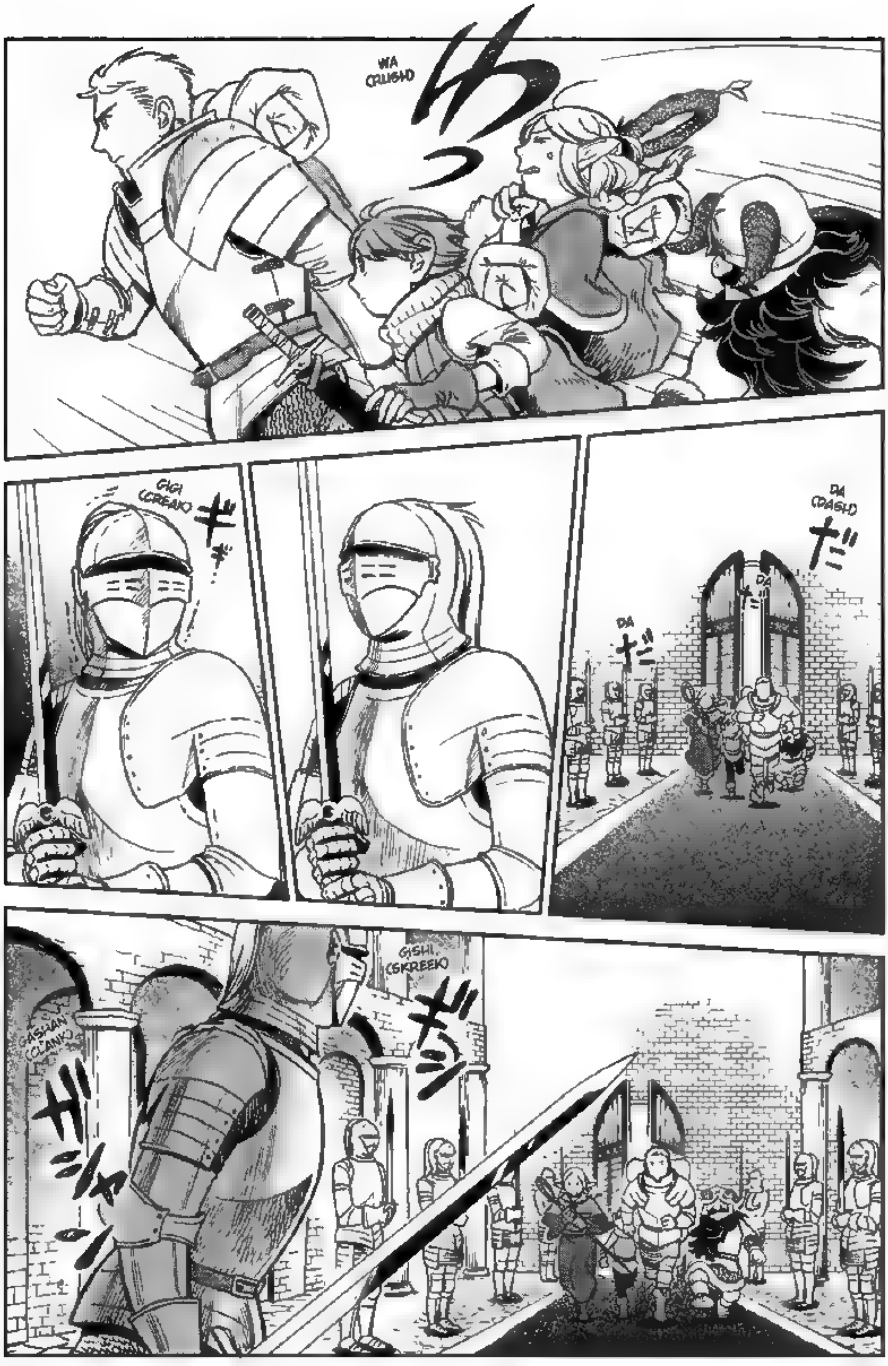

WOW...
どや
DOYA (THUMP)
DOYA
どや
ZU (SHUNK)
IT'S DECORATIVE, NOT FOR USE.
IF WE MELT IT DOWN, THE MATERIALS MIGHT BE...
IS THIS ARMOR WORTH ANYTHING?
MUSU (LOOM)
ぬう
UH...
C'MON, FALIN, RUN!
IT'S A MONSTER!
THE ARMOR MOVED!


BYU (WHISH)
BOKIN (SNAP)
WAY, YOU ...!
WHOA!
TI (WHIP)
SWORD ...
NOT GOOD...
WAAH!
AAGH!
GACHA
GACHA (RATTLE)
GORO (ROLL)
GORO
DO... (THUD)
AGH!


AH! AAAAH!
!
SUPLIN (SLIP)
GUNA (LUNGE)
I...
I DID IT!
GAKIN (CLANG)
BIG BRO!
HUH ...?
DO (BHUNK)

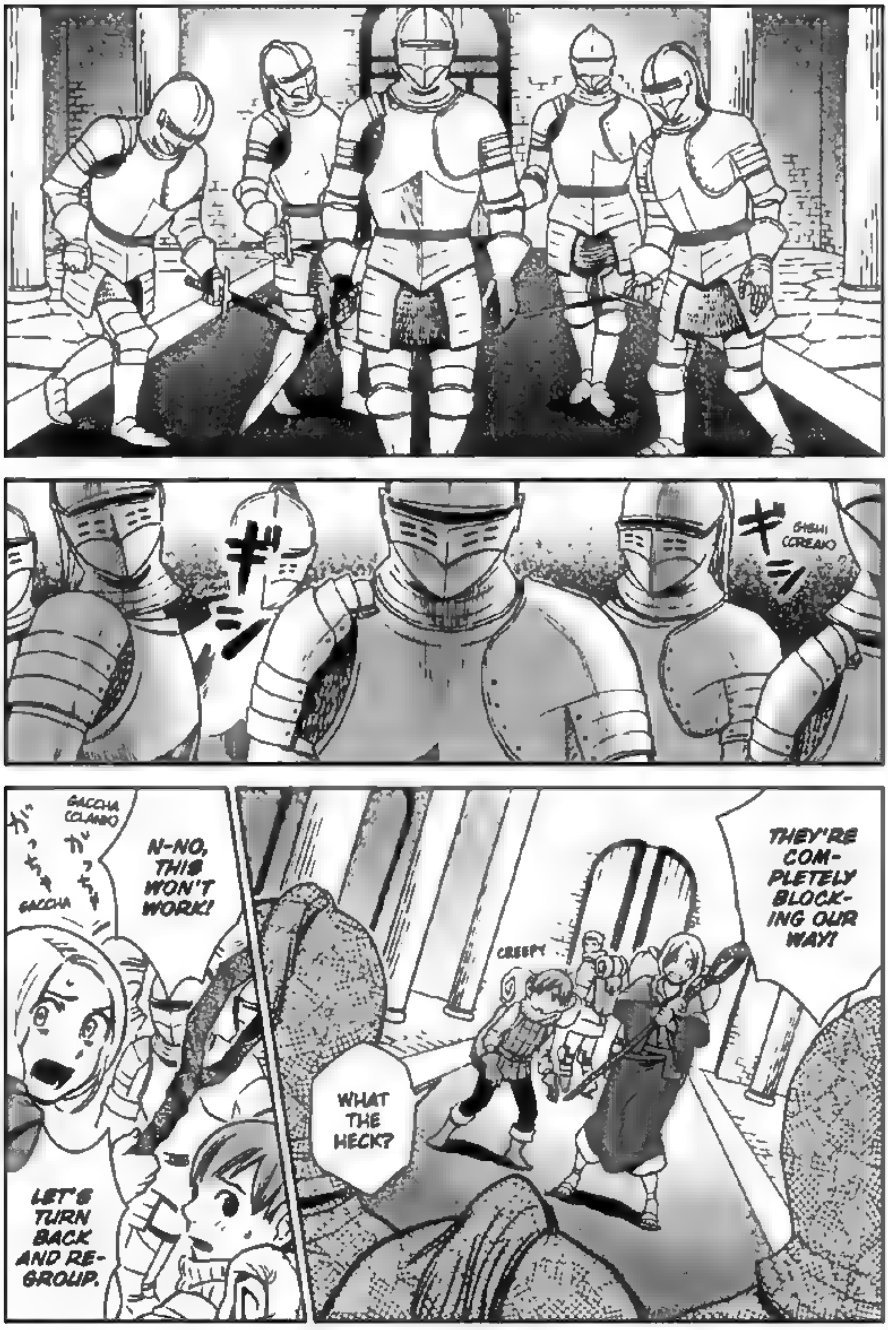

ARMOR
I'D NEVER DIED BEFORE, SO FOR A WHILE, JUST LOOKING AT ARMOR SCARED ME.
WARM
HUH...
SO I DID A LOT OF RESEARCH INTO LIVING ARMOR.
BUT YOU LOST!
THIS IS THE SWORD FROM BACK THEN.
...AND THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED.
WHAT DO YOU THINK IT TASTES LIKE?
HOW WOULD YOU COOK IT, SENSHI?
I READ ALL SORTS OF DOCUMENTS, BUT NONE OF THEM SAID WHAT IT TASTED LIKE.
MOBILE ARMOR: ATTACKS AND REPELS ANYONE WHO COMES WITHIN THREE TO FIVE METERS
UPPER BODY ONLY: ATTACKS THOSE WHO COME WITHIN ONE METER. LEGS DON'T MOVE
UH..
I KNOW, BUT THE LEATHER FASTENERS, SAY...
I HEARD YOU CAN EAT LEATHER SHOES IF YOU COOK THEM RIGHT.
TANNED HIDE IS HARD TO EAT.
IT WOULD BE MUCH EASIER TO HUNT OTHER MONSTERS.
LIVING ARMOR'S CONTROLLED BY MAGIC. IT'S NOT ACTUALLY ALIVE.
HUH?
ARMOR'S NOT EDIBLE. YOU KNOW THAT.


COME ON, LET'S GO.
GI (CREAK)
I SEE...
SO YOU CAN'T EAT LIVING ARMOR.
NO, I DON'T WANT THAT.
IF YOU WANT TO EAT ARMOR THAT BADLY, BOIL YOUR OWN.
KON (TUNK)
I'D RATHER NOT FIGHT THEM NOW.
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL...
GOGOGO (RMBL)
WE DON'T KNOW WHICH ARMOR WILL MOVE.
BE CARE-FUL.
READY, AND...
TRUE ...
IS EVERYONE UP FOR THAT?
I'M FINE.
COULD WE JUST RUN PAST?
THEY'RE SLOW, SO WE'LL BE ABLE TO SHAKE THEM OFF.


WA (RUSH)
わっ
GIGI (CREAK)
ギギ
DA (DASH)
ダ
DA
ダ
DA
ダ
GISHI. (SKREEK)
ギシ
GASHAN (CLANK)
ガシャン


I-IT'S HERE!
I'VE GOT IT.
ZUI (LOOM)
ズい
!
SUPAN (FLIP)
ドス
DOSU (SHUNK)
ゴシャ
GOSHA (CLANG)
OKAY, LET'S GET THE DOOR OPEN WHILE WE CAN.
R-RIGHT.
RUN, GO!
ドサ
DOSA (THUMP)


GU
CRUSH!
GU
KYU
(SQUEAK)
SUPO
(PLUNK)
THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY! LOOK!
IGNORE THEM, MARCILLE. JUST RUN!
YAAH!
GAGHAN
(CLANK)


ギシ
GISHI (CREAK)
ガシッ
GACCHA
ガシッ
GACCHA (CLANK)
N-NO, THIS WON'T WORK!
LET'S TURN BACK AND REGROUP.
WHAT THE HECK?
CREEPY
THEY'RE COMPLETELY BLOCKING OUR WAY!


RE-
TREAT!


BATTAN (SLAM)
HAGH!
HAFF!
HAAAH...
HAAAH...


THAT MEANS WE'LL BE FREE TO GO ON OUR WAY IF WE DEFEAT THEIR CONTROLLER, BUT...
WHEW.
THEY JUST FOLLOW THE ORDERS THEY'RE GIVEN.
THEY DON'T GET SICK OR MOODY. THEY CAN'T.


THEY'RE WEIRDLY STUBBORN TODAY.
DID WE ANNOY THEM SOMEHOW?
NOT POSSIBLE.


THERE MUST BE, SOMEWHERE! ARMOR IS A PILE OF IRON! IT CAN'T MOVE ON ITS OWN.
IS THERE REALLY SOMEONE CONTROLLING THEM?
I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE


COULD THEY BE PROTECTING SOMETHING ON THE OTHER SIDE?
IT WAS AS IF THEY DIDN'T WANT US TO GO THROUGH THE DOOR...
!!
THIS TIME
ORDINARILY
BUT THEY DEFINITELY BLOCKED OUR PATH TODAY.
THEY USUALLY ONLY ATTACK PEOPLE WHO APPROACH THEM.
NO DECENT PERSON WOULD USE MAGIC THIS POWERFUL!
I DON'T KNOW! BUT!
HUH? SO, WHAT, IT'S A MONSTER?
YES!
MAYBE THE ONE CONTROLLING THEM IS NEARBY!?
AH!
THAT COULD BE IT!
FOR EXAMPLE...
"SOMEHOW"?
...ONE OF US GOES THROUGH THE DOOR ALONE.
...WHILE THREE OF US ACT AS DECOYS AND DISTRACT THEM...
...AND FIND THE MAGICIAN WHO'S CONTROLLING IT, WE MAY BE ABLE TO KEEP THE ARMOR FROM MOVING.
ANYWAY, IF WE SOMEHOW BREAK THROUGH THAT WALL OF LIVING ARMOR...


BUT I'M NO GOOD AT FIGHTING.
YOU'RE GOOD AT HIDING YOUR PRESENCE, CH LCHUCK. I THINK YOU'D BE BEST FOR THIS.
.....
GOOD LUCK.
IF THE ENEMY'S NOT ALIVE, BEING ABLE TO MASK MY PRESENCE IS POINT-LESS.
IT'S NOT LIKE THEY HAVE EYES OR EARS.
ALL READY, MARCILLE?
UH-HUH.
キュ
KYU (SQUIK)
NO EYES OR EARS...
HE'S RIGHT.
YEAH!
OKAY, LET'S GO!


GIGI (CREAK)
GIGGU (CREAK)
HEY, ARMOR! HEADS UP!
EVERY-BODY OVER HERE!
KOSO (SNEAK)
KOSO
WAUGH! JUST LOOK AT ALL OF THEM!
HERE! THIS WAY!
DOK (BADUMP)
DOK!
WHAT ON EARTH IS...?
KASASA (RUSTLE)
ZUZU (SLIP)




GIGH! (CREEEAK)
DOKI (BADUMP)
HUH!? THERE'S ARMOR IN HERE TOO...


GACHAN (CLANK)
HMM...
IT LOOKS TOUGHER THAN THE ARMOR OUTSIDE.
I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS TYPE OF ARMOR MOVE BEFORE.
NOBODY SEEMS TO BE CONTROLLING IT.
I CAN'T CALL FOR BACKUP.
C'MON C'MON!
EEEEK!
...WHAT THESE THINGS ARE PROTECTING ON MY OWN.
SUSU (SNEAK)
I'LL JUST HAVE TO FIND OUT...
GUWA (LUNGE)
PIKU (PERK)


I'LL HAVE TO CUT OFF ITS ARMS OR LEGS TO STOP IT.
RGH!
BOK! (SNAP)
AGH!
GHK.

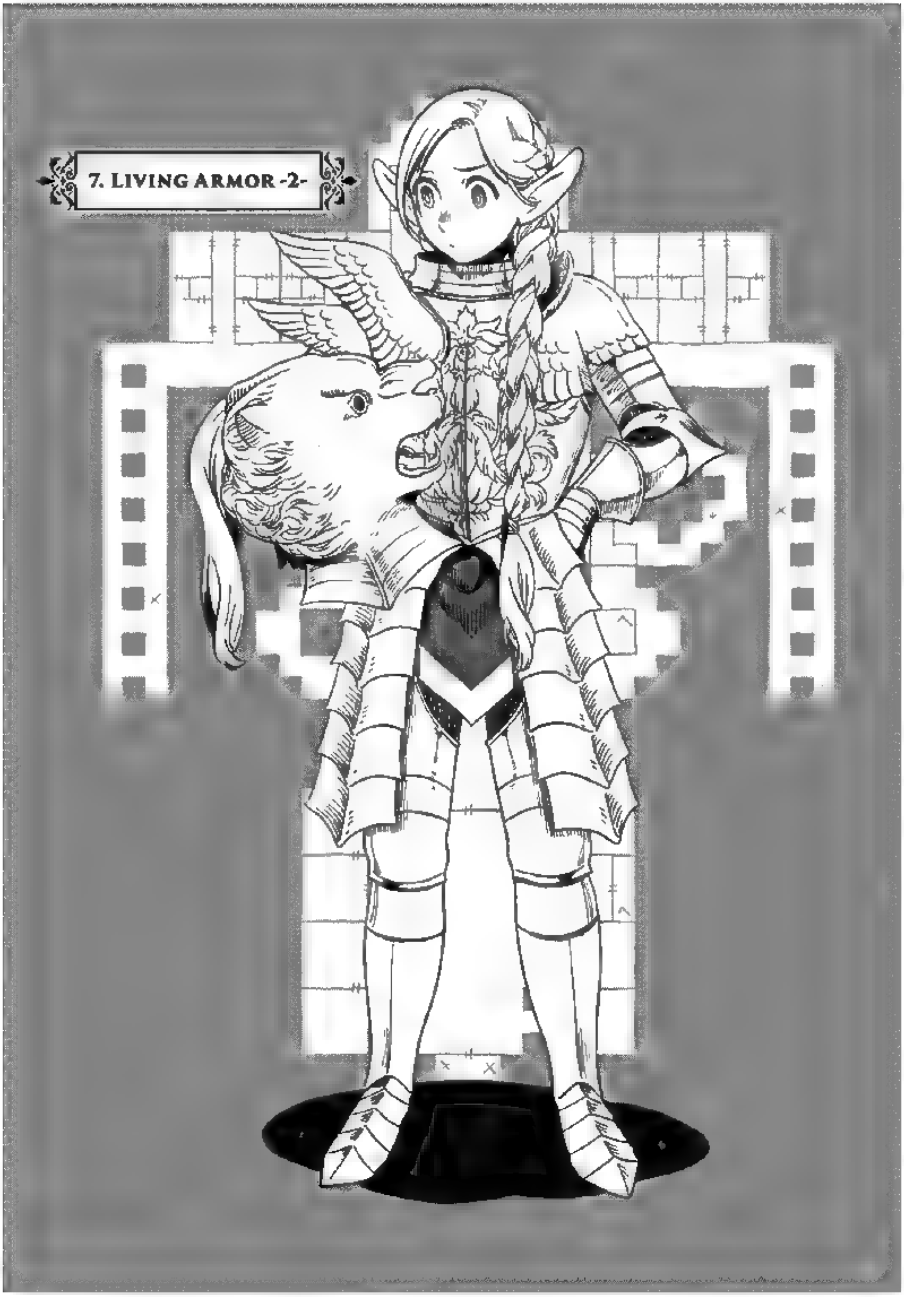

I NEED TO CREATE AN OPENING SOMEHOW, OR ELSE...
NOT GOOD!
DOSA (PNUMP)
TAKE THAT!
BA (WHIP)
GAN (CLANG)


HM!?
!
THERE'S SOMETHING STUCK TO THE SHIELD.
CHIRA (GLANCE)
WHY DID IT JUST PROTECT ITS SHIELD !?
I'LL PUT IT IN HERE
OH!
WHEEE!
YEAH!
WHAT IS THAT?
I KNOW I'VE SEEN ONE BEFORE...


AN EGG SAC!!
SOME CREATURE'S EGGS.
IT WAS PROTECTING THOSE.
BUT WHOSE?
THE THING THAT'S CONTROLLING THEM?
IT ALWAYS SEEMED ODD TO ME.
AN EYELESS, EARLESS, INORGANIC THING, RETRIEVING ITS HEAD AND PUTTING IT BACK.
NO.
THERE'S NO MISTAKE.
EGGS.
THE WAY ITS HEAD MOVES, TRACKING ME.
GI (CREAK)
GR
GI

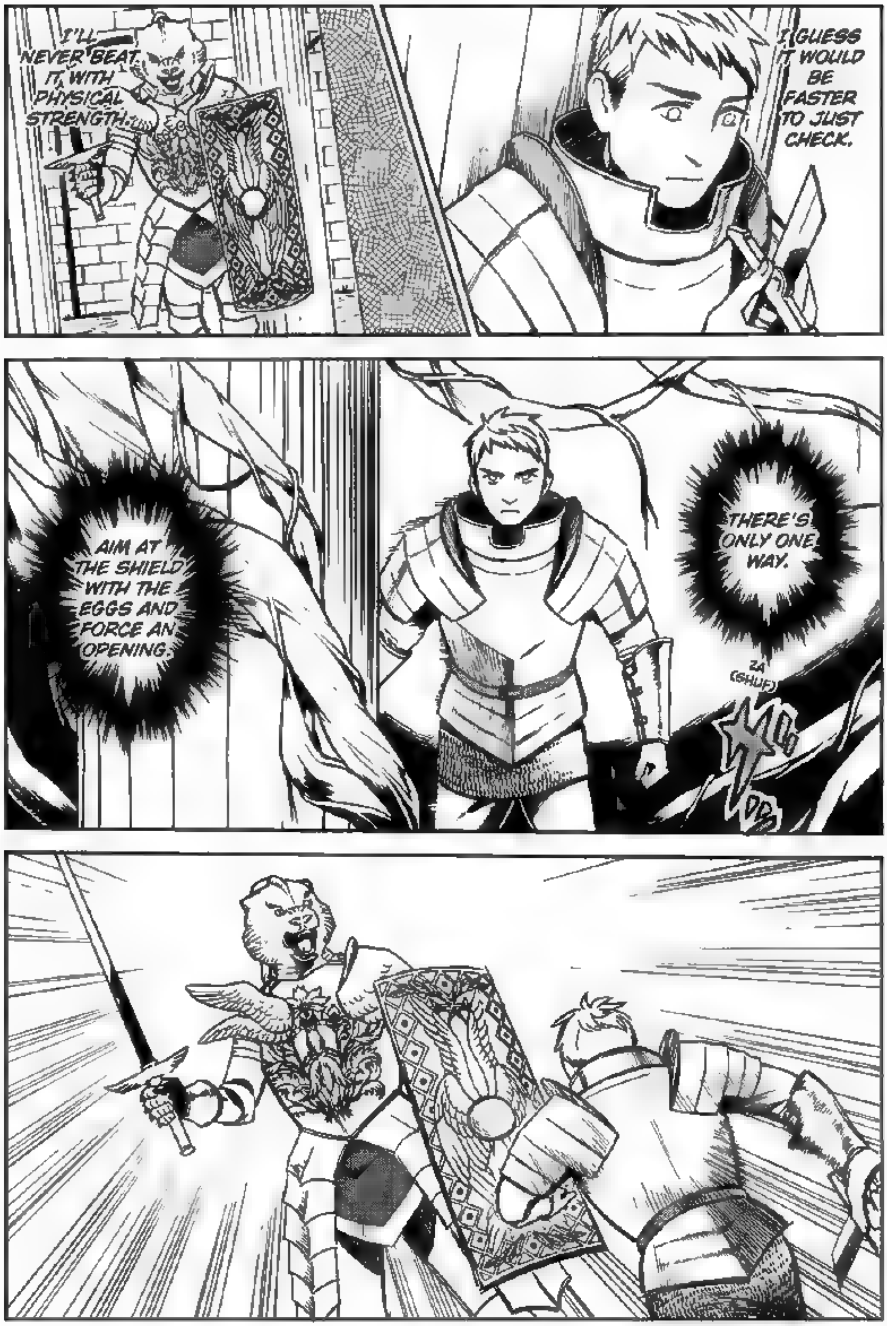

NO ONE'S GIVING THEM ORDERS.
THEY'RE ACTING ON INSTINCT, TRYING TO PROTECT THEIR EGGS.
THESE ARE LIVING CREATURES!
IN THAT CASE, THERE ARE ANY NUMBER OF WAYS...
...TO DEFEAT THEM.
AND THEY'RE EDIBLE.

# 7. LIVING ARMOR -2-




LAIOS, COME ON! HURRY AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS ARMOR!!
MOVING ARMOR THAT WON'T DIE EVEN IF YOU KNOCK ITS HEAD OFF...
STILL, IF IT'S ALIVE, THERE MUST BE A WAY TO KILL IT.
METHODS THAT TAKE TIME AREN'T PRACTICAL.
I NEED TO ATTACK WHAT'S INSIDE THE ARMOR.
STARVE IT.
SUF-FO-CATE IT.
WOUND ITS ORGANS. DRAIN ITS BODY FLUIDS.


THE ARMOR LOOKS EMPTY.
WHAT IS IT SHAPED LIKE?
FIRST, WHERE ARE ITS ORGANS?
AROUND HERE?
IS IT HIDING DEEP INSIDE AND MOVING THE ARMOR BY STRETCHING ITS LIMBS OUT?
HERE?
HERE?
HERE?
LIKE THIS?
COLONY
AN EGG-LAYING QUEEN THAT'S GUARDED BY OTHER INDIVIDUALS... THAT SOUNDS LIKE BEES OR ANTS.
SOMETHING AMORPHOUS, LIKE A SLIME?
IS IT LURKING IN A BLIND SPOT AFTER ALL?
I DON'T HEAR ANY NOISE, SO INSECTS DON'T SEEM LIKELY.
FOR A FORMLESS THING, ITS MOTIONS ARE TOO REGULAR.


I'LL NEVER BEAT IT, WITH PHYSICAL STRENGTH...
I GUESS IT WOULD BE FASTER TO JUST CHECK.
AIM AT THE SHIELD WITH THE EGGS AND FORCE AN OPENING.
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY.
ZA (SHUF)


DO (WALK)
GURA (TOTTER)


GOT IT!
WHA ...!?
TH-THERE'S NOTHING HERE
AND INSIDE IS...
GASHAN (CLANK)
NEXT ...
GASHAN
NEXT MOVE ...
GASHA
THIS IS BAD.
GASHA
GASHA
IS THE HEAD RE-TRIEVAL JUST MIMIC-RY!?
IT REALLY IS EMPTY...


BIKU (FLINCH)
KAKIN (CLANG)
COULDN'T IT SEE WHICH PILLAR I HID BEHIND?
HUH?
GACHAAN (CLANG)
THERE'S A GAP...
...IN THE EDGE...
BA (WHAT)
IS THERE SOMETHING IN THE HEAD AFTER ALL?


GU (YANK)
ZUBUBU (SHUNK)
PAKYA (CRACK)
WHOA!
DERORI (SQUIRM)
SHUU (PFFT)
SO THEY'RE FINE WHEN YOU CUT THEM APART...
...BECAUSE THEY'RE COLONIES OF INDIVIDUALS ANYWAY.
PIKU (TWITCH)
PIKU...
IT STOPPED MOVING...
A MOLLUSK! OH, I SEE!
IT WAS STUCK TO THE INSIDE!!


CATCH!
NOW THAT IT'S CRACKED OPEN, MAYBE...
IS IT LOOKING FOR ITS HEAD?
ゴロリ
GORORI (ROLL)
ガポ
GAPO (PLUNK)
GORO (ROLL)
ゴロ
GORO
ゴロ...
ガシャン
GASHAN (CRASH)
ドウ
DO (WHUD)


ZUBON (POP)
ズボン
MISHI (CREAK)
MI
GUI (TUG)
グイ
THEY'RE LINKED AT THE JOINTS ...
...AND THEY MIMIC MUSCLE MOTIONS BY CONTRACTING?
ZUPO (POP)
ズポ
HMM. INTERESTING.
HOW MANY ARE IN HERE ANYWAY?
GURI (TWIST)
グリ
PAKYU (CRACK)
パキュ
NOW ISN'T THE TIME FOR THIS.
GOTO (THUNK)
ゴト
AH!
SHIGE (STARE)
しげ
SHIGE
しげ
ARE THEY HERMAPHRODITIC?
I WONDER WHICH ONE LAID THOSE EGGS...


BEG PAR-DON.
SUPO (POP)
GYU (GRIP)
THIS IS NO TIME FOR...
HURRY, OVER HERE!
GUYS!
WAAA (WANDER)
SHUU (SLIDE)
RAH!


SO THERE WAS A MAGICIAN!?
WHAT HAPPENED?
AGH!
WHAT WAS THAT!?
HOW DID YOU DO IT!?
...HUH?
NO, NO MAGICIAN.
THE ARMOR WASN'T BEING CONTROLLED. IT'S ALIVE.
EW...
MEET THE REAL "LIVING ARMOR."
KAPA (POP)
LOOK AT THE INSIDE OF THIS ARMOR.
IT'S DOUBLE WALLED, AND SOMETHING'S BETWEEN THEM.


EACH INDIVIDUAL IS FRAGILE AND LIMITED IN IT'S MOVEMENTS.
STILL, BY DIVVYING UP THE AREAS AND US NG THE ARMOR'S FRAMEWORK, THEY CAN MOVE LIKE HUMANS.
INSIDE THE ARMOR, THEY LINK ARMS WITH EACH OTHER...
...AND PERFORM THE ROLE OF THE MUSCLES IN THAT AREA.
YES!
THEY'RE OVIPA-ROUS!
SPAWN-ING?
THEY COME FROM EGGS?
THEY ONLY ATTACK WHEN THEY FEEL THREATENED, BUT UNFORTUNATELY, THEY'RE SPAWN-ING RIGHT NOW.
THEY'RE USUALLY MORE DOCILE.
STOP IT.
SHH.
IT'S CREEPY HOW FAST HE TALKS WHEN THE TALK TURNS TO MON-STERS.
IF WE PUBLISH THIS, WE'L... ROCK THE INDUSTRY ON ITS FOUN-DATIONS!
NOBODY EVER NOTICED BEFORE.
WE ALL ASSUMED THEY WERE MAGIC-POWERED ARMOR.

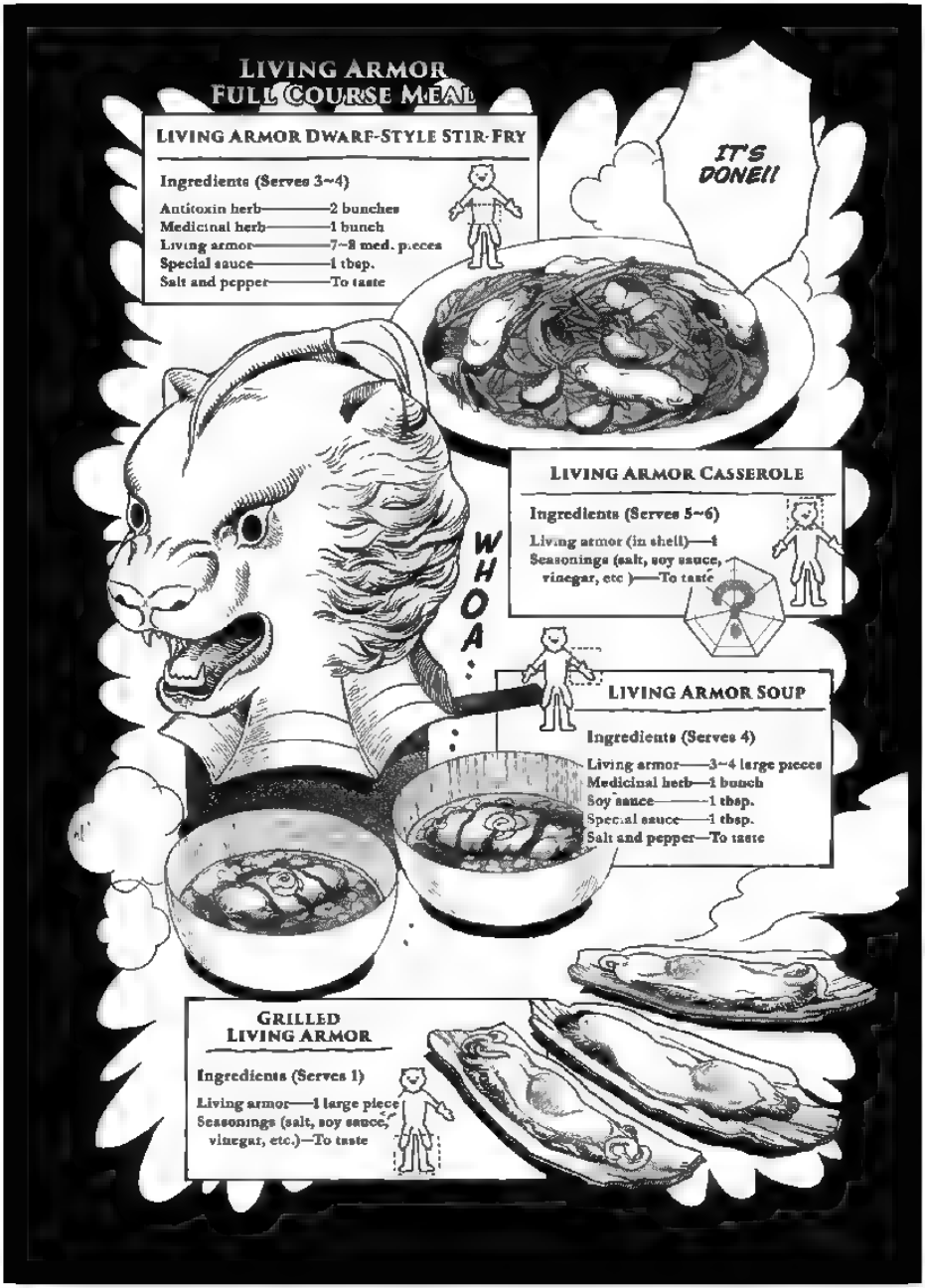

SAY WHAT!?
THEY LOOK PRETTY NUTRITIOUS, DON'T THEY?
WE CAN'T EAT THE ARMOR, BUT WHAT ABOUT THE THINGS INSIDE IT!?
SENSHI.
LET'S GIVE IT A TRY.
BUT EVERY FOOD'S AN UNKNOWN ON THE FIRST BITE.
WE CAN'T EAT SOMETHING WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT!
IT'S NOT A CHALLENGE WE NEED TO ATTEMPT NOW!!
WELL ...
HOW DO WE COOK THESE?
I DON'T THINK CREATURES WITH STRONG POISON WOULD HIDE IT.*
ADVERTISING -ITS- POISON
WHAT IF THEY'RE HIGHLY POISONOUS!?
I'VE NEVER COOKED THESE BEFORE, SO NO GUARANTEES.
THANKS, SENSHI!
KAW!
NOOOOOO!

*THEY DO.


IT'S PROBABLY LIKE AN ADDUCTOR MUSCLE.
A SHELL LIGAMENT USED TO CLOSE THE SHELL.
WHEN I TRIED TO PRY IT OPEN BY HAND, IT WOULDN'T BUDGE...
...BUT WHEN I CUT THIS BIT, IT COULDN'T KEEP IT'S SHELL CLOSED ANY-MORE.
THIS BACK SIDE, HERE...
RIGHT. THAT'S SET-TLED.
GET THE MOLLUSKS OUT OF THE ARMOR.
I SEE. SHELLFISH, HM?


SO WE CAN'T PURGE THE SAND WITH FRESH WATER. I THOUGHT NOT.
WELL, SURE.
IT DROWNED.
LINE
LINE
LINE (WRIGGLED)
DERO (LIMP)
CHAPON (SPLISH)
I'LL TAKE THE INNARDS OUT. I'M WORRIED ABOUT WHAT MIGHT BE IN THERE.
CAN I HAVE?
SUU (SLIT)
DO WE EVEN NEED TO PURGE THEM?
LET'S OPEN ONE UP.
BICHAN (SPLAT)
DO YOU THINK THEY'LL GET TOUGH?
INTO THE SOUP...


JYA (SHUFF)
SPICES ...
...AND SLICED LIVING ARMOR.
MEDIC-INAL HERBS ...
OIL...
AND THEN...
...LET'S MAKE THE OLD STAN-DARD TOO.
PAKO (CLUNK)
...WE'LL STEAM.
THE HEAD...
SHUWA (HISS)
JYUUU (SIZZLE)
SHUWA
PACHI (CRACKLE)
PACHI
DAN (CLANK)
DON (CLONK)


LIVING ARMOR
FULL COURSE MEAL
LIVING ARMOR DWARF-STYLE STIR-FRY
Ingredients (Serves 3~4)
Antitoxin herb——2 bunches
Medicinal herb——1 bunch
Living armor——7~8 med. pieces
Special sauce——1 tbsp.
Salt and pepper——To taste
IT'S DONE!!
WHOA!
LIVING ARMOR CASSEROLE
Ingredients (Serves 5~6)
Living armor (in shell)——1
Seasonings (salt, soy sauce, vinegar, etc.)——To taste
LIVING ARMOR SOUP
Ingredients (Serves 4)
Living armor——3~4 large pieces
Medicinal herb——1 bunch
Soy sauce——1 tbsp.
Special sauce——1 tbsp.
Salt and pepper——To taste
GRILLED LIVING ARMOR
Ingredients (Serves 1)
Living armor——1 large piece
Seasonings (salt, soy sauce, vinegar, etc.)——To taste

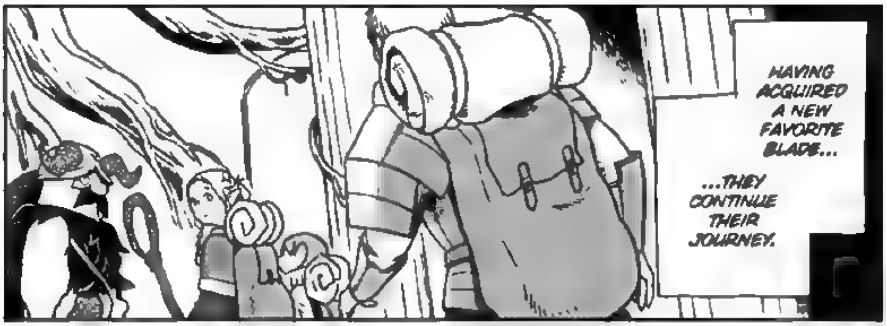

FWOO...
FWOO...
HM?
IT SMELLS DECENT.
HOT !!
KUN (SNIFF)
IT SMELLS LIKE IRON...
HERE.
I SEE.
IF HE DIES, LET'S JUST LEAVE HIM HERE.
RIGHT
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO WANTED TO EAT LIVING ARMOR SO MUCH.
WE CAN'T REALLY TRY IT BEFORE YOU DO.
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?
MOGU (CHEW)
IT SHRANK

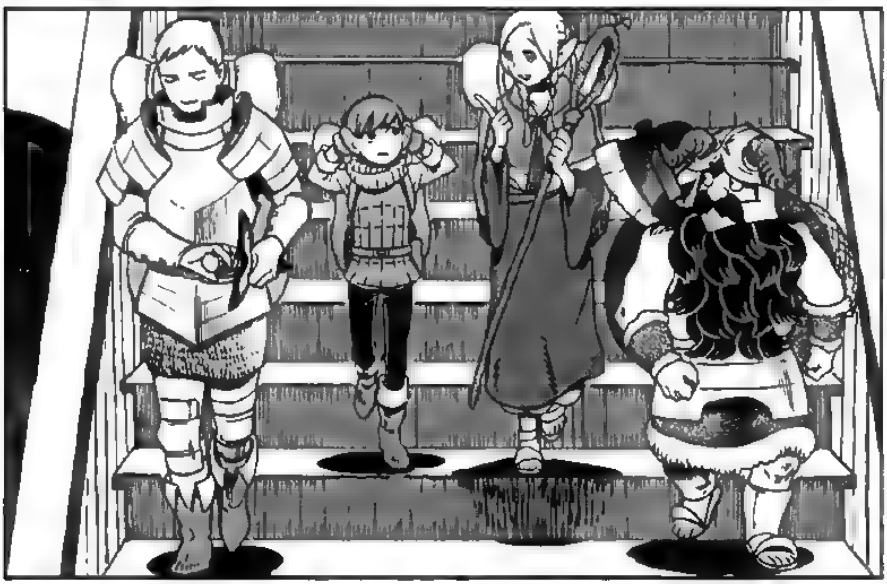

IS HE DEAD!?
IT'S GOOD!
G—
WOW! WHAT IS THIS!?
IT'S REALLY GOOD!
HOW LONG DOES FOOD POISONING TAKE TO MANI-FEST?
DEPENDS ON THE TYPE.
AT FIRST, I DIDN'T THINK IT HAD ANY FLAVOR, BUT...
...IT COMES LATER!
THE TASTE !!
ぱく
PAKU (CHOMP)
AH!
SO THAT'S WHAT IT'S LIKE, HM?
NOT BAD. I COULD'VE MADE IT BETTER THOUGH.

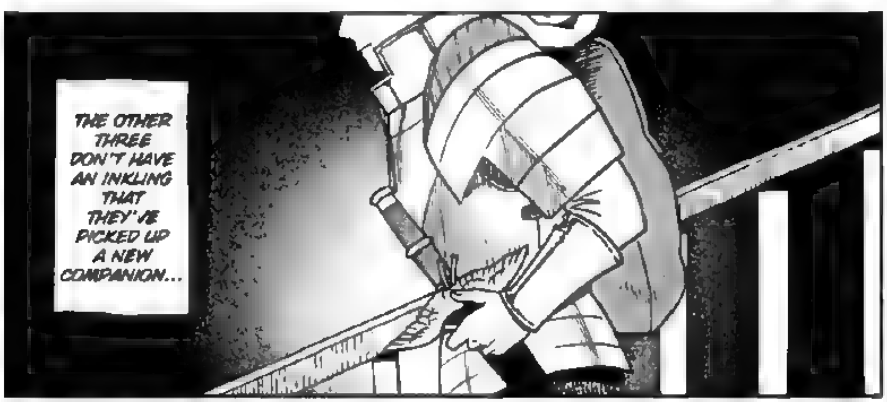

H-HOW IS IT?
A LITTLE STICKY.
IT'S NOT BAD THOUGH.
HM.
PAKU (CHOMP)
I SEE.
DOES ANTI-TOXIN WORK ON FOOD POISONING TOO?
I'M HUNGRY.
THE STUFF STIR-FRIED WITH MEDICINAL HERBS SHOULD BE OKAY.
THE STEAMED ONES LOOK GREAT TOO.
ほっかり
HOKKARI (WARM)
.....
IT TASTES A LITTLE LIKE MUSH-ROOMS...
DOESN'T IT!?
KUN (SNIFF)
? ? ?
KUN
!! GOKU (GULP)
THE SMELL OF THE HELMET MUST'VE GOTTEN SEALED IN.
THEY'RE MUSTY.
YUCK...
THERE'S NO WAY THEY'D TURN OUT BAD...


I WONDER IF THESE SHELLS WILL BIO-DEGRADE.
TO THINK THAT A MONSTER I WAS SO AFRAID OF ONCE...
...WOULD BE THIS FRAGILE AND DELI-CIOUS.
I HOPE THEY HATCH SAFELY...
YEAH.
WHY NOT TAKE THAT ONE?
YOUR SWORD BROKE, DIDN'T IT...?
ZORORI (STROKE)


にゅっ
NYU
にゃ
NYUUU (GROWL)
HM?
LAIOS!
IF YOU'RE USING THAT SWORD, WANT ME TO MAKE SURE IT'S NOT CURSED?
BA (CRUNCH)
IF YOU PICK UP A WEIRD CURSE, DON'T COME CRYING TO ME.
HOW ARE YOU SO SURE?
THIS DEFINITELY ISN'T CURSED! I CAN TELL!
NO, NO!! IT'S FINE!!


HAVING ACQUIRED A NEW FAVORITE BLADE...
...THEY CONTINUE THEIR JOURNEY.




THE OTHER THREE DON'T HAVE AN INKLING THAT THEY'VE PICKED UP A NEW COMPANION...

# Translation Notes

**Page 5**
The specific hot pot being made here, ***mizutaki***, is an unthickened stew of boiled, unseasoned meat and vegetables that is cooked at the table.

**Page 39**
Shabu-shabu is thinly sliced meat (usually beef) parboiled in hot broth, then dipped in sauce.

***Oyako-don*** (mother-and-child rice bowls) usually consist of chicken, egg, and sautéed onions served over rice.

**Page 47**
The Matagi are people of Japan's Tohoku region who farm during the growing season and then form bands and hunt during the winter.

"Along comes a duck with a leek on its back" is a Japanese phrase used when something terribly convenient happens, as if a duck has arrived to dinner with its own seasoning in tow.

**Page 49**
According to Japanese urban legend, cherry trees are so beautiful because there are corpses buried under them. The legend stems from the folk belief that cherry blossoms were originally white but grew pink from the blood of the corpses buried under the trees.

**Page 113**
***Kakiage*** are "cakes" made of assorted shredded vegetables and sometimes seafood that are then lightly battered and fried.

**Page 120**
***Tempura*** refers to meat or vegetables that have been battered and deep-fried. Tempura is distinct from other deep-fry techniques in that breadcrumbs are omitted.

**Page 186**
***Matango*** is a 1963 Japanese thriller about a group of castaways who are stranded on an island, eat the fungi that grow there, and find themselves slowly turning into mushrooms...which explains Marcille's reaction.

**Page 125**
Senshi is using degrees Celsius. Converted, 180°C is about 365°F. Ouch!

*To be continued...*

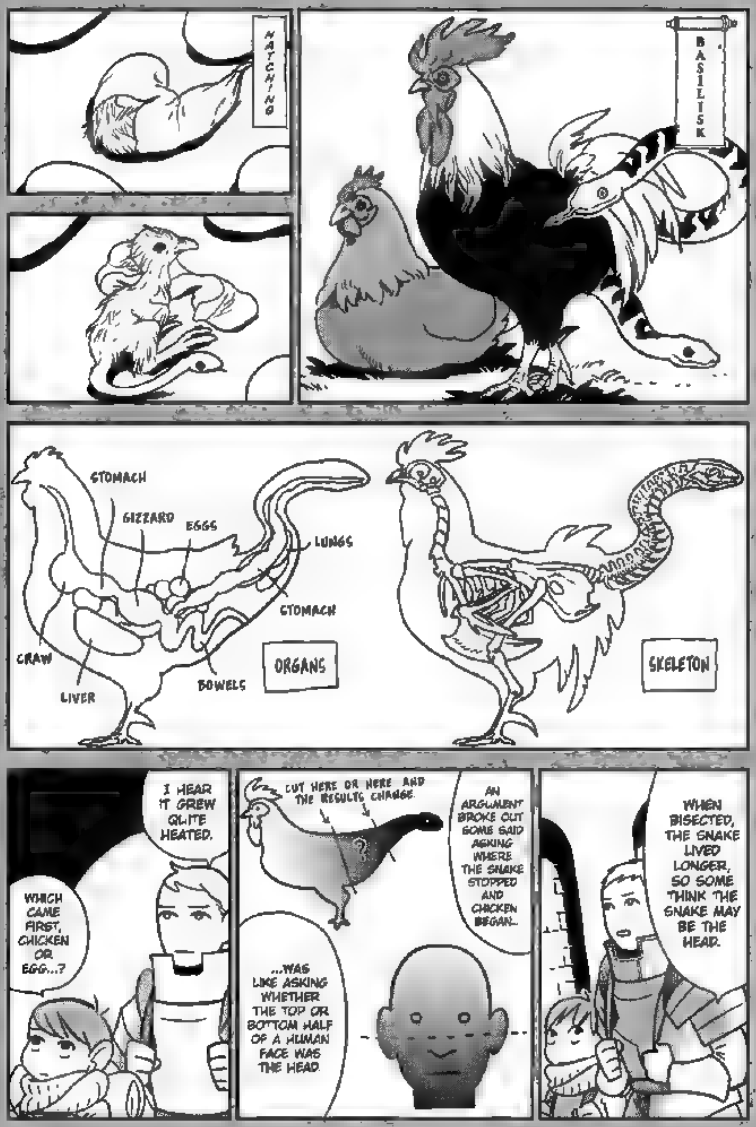


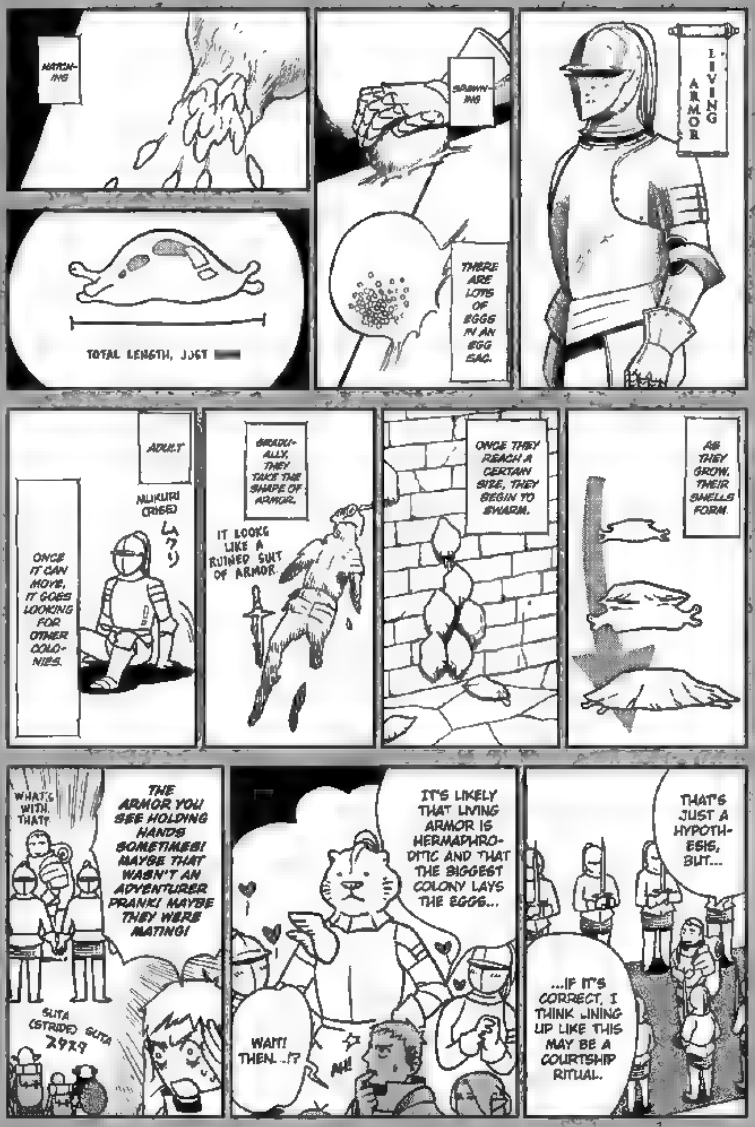

SFX: PARARA (FLIPPP)


SLIMES THAT ATTACK HUMANS ARE A RARE EXCEPTION.
BICHA (SPLAT)
びちゃ
WAUGH!
DUM...
DUM DEE DUM...
SLIME
THEN THEY MOVE INTO THE PREY'S BOWELS AND SPAWN. THE EGGS ARE RELEASED ALONG WITH THE FECES.
THEY CLING TO THEIR TARGET'S STOMACH AND THEN, ACTING AS IF THEY'RE PART OF IT, MOOCH OFF THEIR MEALS.
AS A RULE, MOST TYPES LURK NEAR WATER AND WAIT FOR AQUATIC CREATURES TO SWALLOW THEM.
WHAT BETTER TIME COULD THERE BE?
DID YOU HAVE TO TELL THAT STORY NOW!?
IDIOT!
MUCCHIRI (STUFFED)
みっちり
WHEN HE OPENED THEM UP, THEIR STOMACHS WERE CHOKED WITH TINY SLIMES.
.....
ZONA (SHUDDER)
THERE WAS A HOBBYIST WHO KEPT FISH IN A SMALL POND.
I HEARD THIS ONE TOO.
EVEN THOUGH THE MAN TOOK VERY GOOD CARE OF THEM, THE FISH ABRUPTLY STARTED WASTING AWAY, AND THEY ALL DIED.


IT'S EASY TO TRAP PREY USING FORCE.
HOWEVER, IF IT ISN'T OKAY TO HURT THE TARGET, YOU NEED A MORE DELICATE TECHNIQUE.
I SHOULD NOT HAVE ASKED HER IF IT "FELT GOOD."
STILL, IT'S TRUE THAT SOME MAN-EATING PLANTS' PREY-TRAPPING ABILITIES ARE DRAWING NOTICE
MAN-EATING PLANTS
IT'S REALLY HARD FOR A PLANT ...
...NO, FOR EVEN A HUMAN TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
CREATURES WHOSE STURDINESS AND WAYS OF MOVING ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.
THEY ADAPT TO ABSOLUTELY ANY CREATURE.
RATS OR BEARS OR HUMANS.
GOOD (HOOOH)
ALL I CAN SEE IS A FUTURE WHERE IT'S USED FOR EVIL.
AAAH!
LOTS OF PEOPLE WANT TO SINK TONS OF CAPITAL INTO RESEARCHING THIS MONSTER.
SEE? YOU'RE INTERESTED NOW, AREN'T YOU?
THEY SAY THESE PLANTS COULD BE USEFUL FOR ALL SORTS OF THINGS.
TRAPPING LARGE ANIMALS WITHOUT HURTING THEM, SAY.


MANDRAKE
AT THE ANNUAL MANDRAKE SHOW, WE COMPETE TO SEE WHO CAN GROW THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PERSON-SHAPED SPECIMEN.
LAST YEAR'S WINNING ENTRY
WILD MANDRAKES DON'T FORM INTO HUMAN SHAPES EASILY.
EXACTLY!
...THERE ARE QUITE A FEW THAT DON'T.
THEY DO LOOK SORT OF PERSON SHAPED, BUT...
LIKE HOW ANYTHING WITH THREE POINTS LOOKS LIKE A FACE
BY THE WAY, MANDRAKES (MANDRAGORA) ARE AN ACTUAL PLANT, BUT THEY'RE POISONOUS, SO YOU SHOULDN'T EAT THEM.
WE DON'T RAISE THEM TO EAT.
IF YOU BREAK UP THE ROOTS LIKE THAT, YOU WON'T HAVE AS MUCH TO EAT.
ROOTS MUST BE AT PROPER LIMB SITES.
IN PARTICULAR, EYE LOCI SHOULD BE LEVEL.
COLOR.
PROPORTIONS.


HATCHING
BASILISK
STOMACH
GIZZARD
EGGS
LUNGS
STOMACH
CRAW
LIVER
BOWELS
ORGANS
SKELETON
I HEAR IT GREW QUITE HEATED.
WHICH CAME FIRST, CHICKEN OR EGG...?
CUT HERE OR HERE AND THE RESULTS CHANGE.
AN ARGUMENT BROKE OUT SOME SAID ASKING WHERE THE SNAKE STOPPED AND CHICKEN BEGAN.
...WAS LIKE ASKING WHETHER THE TOP OR BOTTOM HALF OF A HUMAN FACE WAS THE HEAD.
WHEN BISECTED, THE SNAKE LIVED LONGER, SO SOME THINK THE SNAKE MAY BE THE HEAD.


LIVING ARMOR
HATCHING
SWARMING
THERE ARE LOTS OF EGGS IN AN EGG SAC.
TOTAL LENGTH, 1.5CT
ADULT
NUKURI (CRIES) ふう
ONCE IT CAN MOVE, IT GOES LOOKING FOR OTHER COLONIES.
GRADUALLY, THEY TAKE THE SHAPE OF ARMOR.
IT LOOKS LIKE A RUSTED SUIT OF ARMOR
ONCE THEY REACH A CERTAIN SIZE, THEY BEGIN TO SWARM.
AS THEY GROW, THEIR SMELLS FORM.
WHAT'S WITH THAT?
THE ARMOR YOU SEE HOLDING HANDS SOMETIMES! MAYBE THAT WASN'T AN ADVENTURER PRANK! MAYBE THEY WERE MATING!
SUTA (STRIDE) SUTA
IT'S LIKELY THAT LIVING ARMOR IS HERMAPHRODITIC AND THAT THE BIGGEST COLONY LAYS THE EGGS...
WAIT! THEN...!?
THAT'S JUST A HYPOTHESIS, BUT...
...IF IT'S CORRECT, I THINK LINING UP LIKE THIS MAY BE A COURTSHIP RITUAL.

# 1

# DELICIOUS IN DUNGEON

## RYOKO KUI

**Translation: Taylor Engel** **Lettering: Abigail Blackman**

**This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.**

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2
DUNGEON
RYOKO KUI


2
Delicious
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# Delicious in Dungeon



Ryoko Kui

2

# Delicious in Dungeon

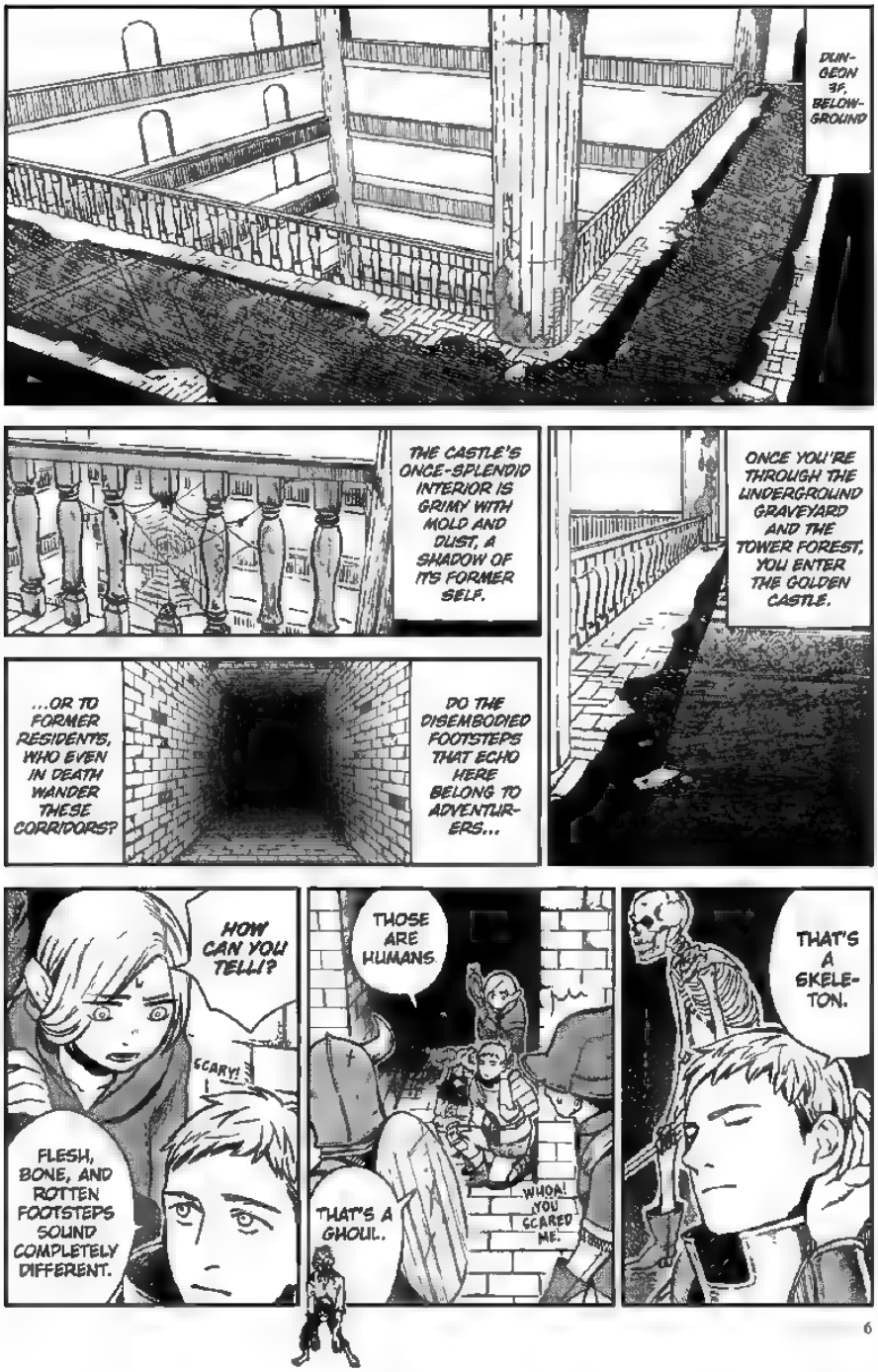
2

*Contents*

*Chapter 8* STEWED CABBAGE — 005
*Chapter 9* ORCS — 029
*Chapter 10* SNACKS — 055
*Chapter 11* SORBET — 079
*Chapter 12* COURT CUISINE — 103
*Chapter 13* BOILED IN SALT WATER — 129
*Chapter 14* KELPIE — 157
*Bonus* MISCELLANEOUS MONSTER TALES -2- — 184




8 Stewed Cabbage


DUN-GEON 3F, BELOW-GROUND
THE CASTLE'S ONCE-SPLENDID INTERIOR IS GRIMY WITH MOLD AND DUST, A SHADOW OF ITS FORMER SELF.
ONCE YOU'RE THROUGH THE UNDERGROUND GRAVEYARD AND THE TOWER FOREST, YOU ENTER THE GOLDEN CASTLE.
...OR TO FORMER RESIDENTS, WHO EVEN IN DEATH WANDER THESE CORRIDORS?
DO THE DISEMBODIED FOOTSTEPS THAT ECHO HERE BELONG TO ADVENTUR-ERS...
HOW CAN YOU TELL!?
SCARY!
FLESH, BONE, AND ROTTEN FOOTSTEPS SOUND COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.
THOSE ARE HUMANS.
THAT'S A GHOUL..
WHOA! YOU SCARED ME.
THAT'S A SKELE-TON.


WAIT.
LET'S GO LEFT.
I HEAR THE RIGHT IS GUARDED BY GOLEMS.
HEY, A WRAITH.
THAT'S UNUSUAL.
IT'S NICE TO BE ABLE TO AVOID POINTLESS FIGHTS, BUT...
THEY'RE USED AS PUPPETS THAT FAITHFULLY OBEY THEIR MASTER'S ORDERS.
GOLEMS — MAGICAL, HUMAN-SHAPED CREATURES MADE OF MUD, DIRT, AND STONES.
WHAT I NEED ARE THEIR BODIES.
COME WITH ME.
TEACH ME!
NO!!
WHAT WOULD YOU USE IT FOR?
SCARY.
I EVEN KNOW HOW TO MAKE THEM.
FOR THE RECORD, GOLEMS ARE GENUINE MAGICAL CREATURES!
99% DIRT!


THIS IS THE CAMPSITE I USUALLY USE AS MY BASE.
GASA (RUSTLE)
WOW...
AS A RULE, I HUNT ON THE SECOND OR FOURTH FLOORS.
ONCE A MONTH, I GO INTO TOWN TO RESTOCK ON SPICES AND THINGS I'M LOW ON.
YOU LIVE HERE?
I ALMOST NEVER STAY THE NIGHT, THOUGH.
THERE MUST BE A BETTER REASON THAN THAT.
or
MOST OF THEM ARE ROTTING OR NOTHING BUT BONES.
THE THIRD FLOOR DOESN'T HAVE MANY EDIBLE MONSTERS.
BUT...
NOOOO!
I WAS ON MY WAY BACK FROM RESUPPLYING WHEN I RAN INTO YOUR GROUP.
OHH.


THEIR BODIES ARE RICH IN NUTRI-ENTS...
...AND THEIR INTERNAL TEMPERA-TURE AND MOISTURE ARE ALWAYS JUST RIGHT.
...GOLEMS!
NOW. THOSE ARE SOME MARVEL-OUS CRITTERS!
I'M NOT PARTIAL TO MAGIC...
...BUT THOSE GOLEMS ARE LAUDABLE! ALL FIELDS SHOULD BE LIKE THAT.
THE MAGIC RESEARCHERS TOO.
...YOU'RE USING GOLEMS AS FARM FIELDS!?
YOU'RE GONNA MAKE THE CASTLE PEOPLE CRY.
WHY?
IN OTHER WORDS...
YOU PLANT SEEDS OR SEED-LINGS, AND THEY JUST GROW ON THEIR OWN!
MISTING
IF THEY GET TOO DRY, THEY BECOME FRAGILE, SO.
THEY EVEN MANAGE THEIR OWN MOISTURE.
BOTTOM WATERING
THEY CHASE OFF VEGETABLE THIEVES TOO.
I DOUBT THEY'RE AFTER THE VEGETA-BLES.
AFTER ALL, THEY DON'T PICK UP PESTS EASILY.


GOGO (RUMBLE)
THAT SAID, FIELDS NEED TO BE TENDED.
THAT'S WHY MY BASE IS HERE.
ZUN (STOMP)
ZUN
PII (WHEEE?)
THERE THEY ARE!


DO (THOOM)
DO
DO
SHOULD WE HELP?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
BA (CLING)
DON'T NEED IT.
JYAGU (SLASH)
BUON (SWIPE)
GYURUN (TWIRL)
GOCCAGO (CRUSHER)
ZAGU (SLASH)
ZUZUN (CLIMB)
BA (TMP)
BA
BA


BUON (SWIPE)
SHU (WHISH)
ZUSHI (WHUD)
GOGO (ROOOAR)
GU (SHOVE)
GORO (ROLL)
I WONDER HOW HE KNOWS WHERE THE GOLEMS' CORES ARE.
HE'S GOOD AT THIS.
.....
.....
DON'T TELL ME...
WOW...
ZAGU (SHUNK)
BA (TMP)
BA
BA
BA
BAAAN (TA-DAAA)


I NOTICED THEY WERE PRETTY LEAFY, BUT...
...THESE ARE ALL VEGETABLES?
NOW WE HARVEST THE VEGETABLES FROM THE GOLEMS' BACKS.
DONE.
LIKE FLEAS
I WONDER IF THESE SEEM LIKE PARASITES TO THE GOLEMS.
HUP
HOW DO THEY CONDUCT PHOTOSYNTHESIS?
ZUPO (POP)
HE'S NOT KIDDING!
WHEEZE!
HAFF!
DO PULL THE WEEDS THOUGH.
...SO YOU COULD SAY THEY'RE SYMBIOTIC.
ACTUALLY, WHEN THE PLANTS PUT DOWN ROOTS, IT FIRMS UP THE SOIL...
WHAT, SERIOUSLY?


A BUMPER CROP.
ONCE THEY'RE DRY...
IF WE PILE 'EM UP HERE, THEY'LL DRY OUT.
BRING THE WEEDS OVER HERE.
WE'LL FINALLY GET TO EAT REGULAR VEGETABLES AGAIN.
THIS IS FERTILIZER I MADE SOMEWHERE ELSE.
HM...?
...IF WE PUT THEM BACK IN THE GOLEMS, THEY'LL BREAK DOWN.

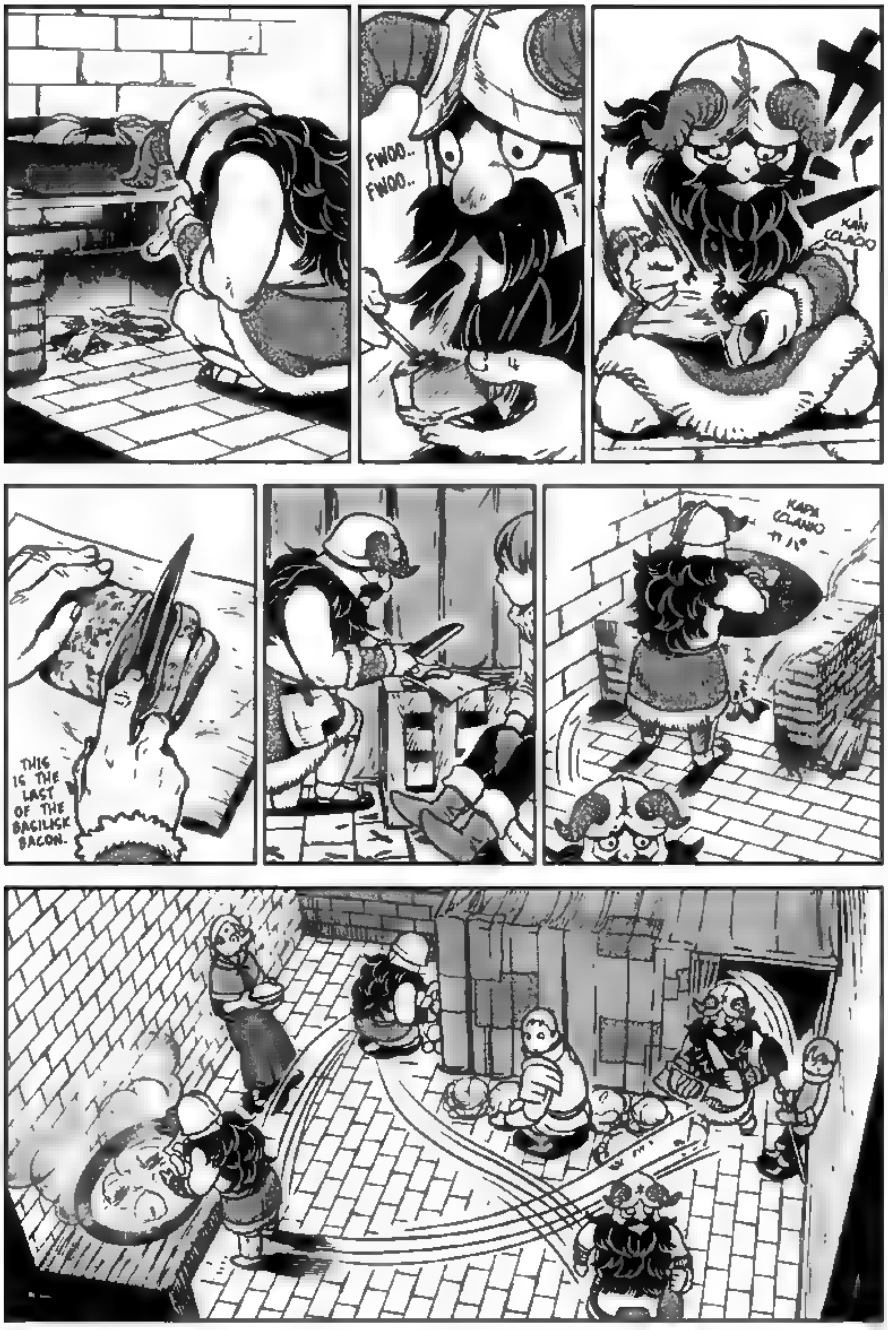

YOU KNEW WHERE THE GOLEMS' CORES WERE...
YOU KNEW WHAT?
...BECAUSE YOU BURIED THEM YOURSELF, DIDN'T YOU!?
I KNEW IT!!
...INTO THE GOLEMS TOO!!
GO (SHLOP)
IT'S GOING...
DILUTE IT WITH WATER. THEN SPREAD IT.
QUASI-LEGAL MAGICAL CREATURES?
I KNOW WHERE THE LOOPHOLES ARE...
ALL I'M DOING IS DIGGING UP DIRT AND PUTTING IT BACK.
ACTIVATING MAGICAL CREATURES WITHOUT PERMISSION IS A CRIME, YOU KNOW.
I'M SHOCKED!
PLANTING THE SAME THING AGAIN DAMAGES THE SOIL...
...SO I ROTATE WHAT I PLANT ON EACH GOLEM.
MIX IT INTO THE DIRT WELL.
THEN MAKE FURROWS.

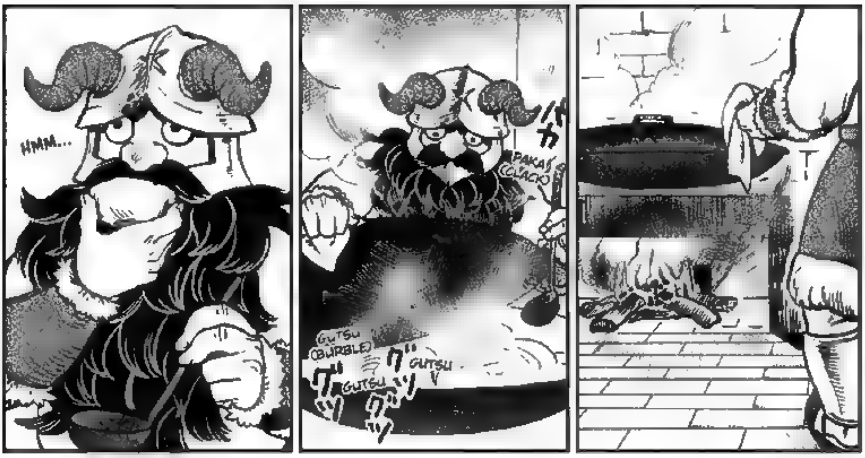

I THINK THIS TOOK MORE ENERGY THAN FIGHTING MONSTERS.
BWAH!
I'M WORN OUT!
GOKU (GULP)
PAH-HA- (SPLISH)
GOKU
ONCE WE TOP UP OUR WATER, WE'LL GET READY FOR THE MEAL.
THANKS TO YOU, IT WENT A LOT FASTER THAN USUAL.
PLUG THE DRAIN
GET THE WATER READY...
...WE'LL COLLECT AS MUCH OF THE LOOSE DIRT AS POSSIBLE...
WHILE THE ELF-GIRL'S GONE...
BE CAREFUL.
I DRANK ALL THAT WATER, AND NOW I NEED A RESTROOM.
SABU-ROU.
JIROU.
TAROU.


IT'S AS IF THEY'RE BEING CAREFUL WITH THE PLANTS ON THEIR BACKS.
IT'LL TAKE SOME TIME.
NOT TILL RIGHT ABOUT WHEN THE SEEDS TAKE ROOT AND WON'T FALL OUT EVEN IF THE SOIL MOVES.
ONCE THOSE ARE BURIED, WILL THEY REVIVE RIGHT AWAY?
NOPE.
YOU'VE BEEN LIVING LIKE THIS, SENSHI?
WASN'T IT HARD?
THAT'S AMAZING!
YOU'RE TREATING GOLEMS WITH SUCH CARE...
THAT SHOULD DO IT.
C'MON, LET'S ENJOY THE FRUITS OF OUR LABOR.
I LIVE LIKE THIS BECAUSE I WANT TO.
IT'S NOT HARD AT ALL.


WHAT A PRETTY COLOR.
ZABU (SPLISH)
I'VE GOTTEN PRETTY GOOD AT PEELING STUFF.
ZORI
ZORI (SCRIT)
YOU'RE SURE IT'S OKAY IF THE PIECES ARE THIS BIG?
IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE.
BAKUN (CHUNK)


ZAPAA (SPLASH)
GOTON (CLUNK)
MAGIC WOULD BE FASTER.
YOU ALWAYS DO IT THAT WAY.
NO NEED. I'LL START IT WITH A STRIKER.
LIGHTING A FIRE?
I'LL DO IT.
.....
.....
YOUR WAY IS NO DIFFERENT FROM BUYING VEGETABLES AT THE STORE.
"CONVE-NIENT" AND "EASY" AREN'T THE SAME.
IF YOU DO THINGS THE EASY WAY, YOU GET RUSTY.
THERE'S NO NEED TO HATE MAGIC THAT MUCH.
YOU JUST SAID GOLEMS WERE CONVE-NIENT.


FWOO..
FWOO..
KAN
COUNCIL
THIS IS THE LAST OF THE BACILLUS BACON.
KAPA
COUNCIL




## GOLEM FIELD-FRESH VEGGIE LUNCH

IT'S DONE!

### WHOLE STEWED CABBAGE

**Ingredients (Serves 4)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Cabbage | 1 head |
| Carrots | 2 |
| Potatoes | 4 large |
| Onions | 2 medium |
| Thick-slice bacon | 8 slices |
| Salt and pepper | To taste |
| Water | A generous amount |




### TURNIP SALAD

**Ingredients (Serves 4)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Turnips | 2 medium |
| Carrot | A small amt. |
| Carrot greens | To taste |
| Olive oil | To taste |
| Salt | A pinch |


MMM!
HORORI (FLAKE)
MAYBE SOMETHING ABOUT THE GOLEMS AFFECTS THE FLAVOR.
STOP IT!
IT'S SO STRANGE THAT THEY GREW THIS WELL UNDER-GROUND.
IT'S DELI-CIOUS!!
.....
A SECRET.
COME TO THINK OF IT, WHAT'S THAT LAST 1% OF A GOLEM?
THEY MAY WALK AND ROAR, BUT THEY'RE JUST FIELDS.


KARA
EMPTY?
から?
AHH, THAT WAS YUMMY!
I'M FULL.


I'M HEADED TO THE LOO.
CLEAN UP!
GOGO (RUMMAGE)
GOGO
EATING SO MUCH MADE ME SLEEPY.
YOU CAN REST A BIT.
THERE'S A LITTLE SOMETHING I WANT TO GET DONE.
IF EVERYONE POOPED ANYWHERE THEY WANTED IN THE DUNGEON, THINGS WOULD GET VERY NASTY...
...SO IN HIGH-TRAFFIC AREAS, THERE ARE SET PLACES TO DO YOUR BUSINESS.
THEY DON'T LOOK AS IF SOMEBODY JUST DUG A HOLE.
THE TOILETS AROUND HERE ARE REALLY WELL-MADE.
SOMEBODY AROUND HERE IS REALLY DILIGENT.
THEY'RE ALWAYS NICE AND CLEAN, AND SOMETIMES...
...THERE ARE EVEN VASES OF FLOWERS IN THEM.


WHAT?
AUGH!
SEN-SHIII!
DOWN HERE, IT'S AN IMPOR-TANT SOURCE OF FERTI-IZER.
RIGHT AFTER YOU'VE EATEN? WOW.
COLLECTING THE NIGHT SOIL FROM THE TOILETS FOR MY MANURE POT.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
I KNOW. IT'S JUST KIND OF ICKY.
MARCILLE, THAT'S HOW IT WORKS ABOVEGROUND TOO.
UGH!
THEN, THOSE VEGETABLES WERE ALSO...


DON'T YOU THINK IT WOULD BE EASIER TO TILL FIELDS AND HUNT OUTSIDE?
YOU COULD BE SELF-SUFFICIENT JUST AS WELL ABOVE-GROUND.
WHY DO YOU INSIST ON LIVING IN THE DUNGEON, SENSHI?
AT ONE TIME THERE WERE MORE THAN TEN GOLEMS. NOW THERE ARE ONLY THREE.
WHO WOULD SET FALLEN GOLEMS ON THEIR FEET AGAIN?
WHO WOULD PULL OUT THE ZOMBIES THAT FALL INTO THE TOILETS?
BUT THEN WHO WOULD TAKE CARE OF THE DUNGEON BATH-ROOMS?
IF THAT HAPPENS, THIS PLACE WILL BE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.
THEY'LL CROWD OUT OTHER MON-STERS...
FOLKS WON'T BE ABLE TO PROPERLY TRAVEL OR HUNT.
THE MONSTERS THEY DISPLACE WILL GET INTO OTHER AREAS OF THE DUNGEON.
IF THE GOLEMS VANISH, MONSTERS FROM THE LOWER FLOORS WILL COME UP HERE.


MORE THAN ANY-THING...
YOU CAN'T REAP ITS BLESSINGS BY NEGLECTING IT.
THE DUNGEON IS LIKE A FIELD.
...I EAT WHAT GROWS HERE...
...AND I SHARE WITH THE DUNGEON.
THAT MAKES ME HAPPY.
...YOU FINALLY FEEL AS IF YOU'RE REALLY IN THE DUNGEON!
WHEN YOU LIVE LIKE THAT...


...IS IT OKAY FOR YOU TO LEAVE THIS PLACE FOR US?
IF THIS AREA ISN'T KEPT UP...
AH!
BUT THEN...
HANG ON A MINUTE. I'LL BE READY SOON.
BESIDES, I WOULDN'T SLEEP WELL IF YOU DIED OF MALNUTRITION.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. IF I'M ONLY GONE FOR A MONTH OR TWO, THE GOLEMS WILL HANDLE THINGS SOMEHOW.
THAT'S WHY THEY'RE HERE ANYWAY
SENSHI IS AMAZING...
CHAPTER 8: THE EN

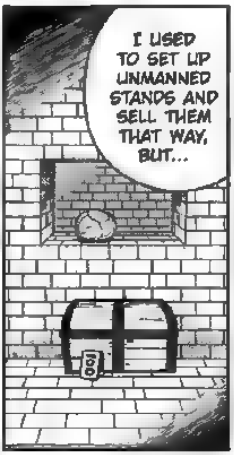

9. Orcs




WE TOOK THEM ALL AT ONCE. I USUALLY TAKE A FEW AT A TIME.
STILL, WE CAN'T EAT ALL THIS ON OUR OWN.


WHAT WILL WE DO WITH THESE VEGE-TABLES?
IT WOULD BE PRETTY DANGEROUS IF WE RAN INTO A MON-STER RIGHT NOW.


...THE MONEY ALWAYS GOT STOLEN, SO I STOPPED.
NO WONDER THAT TREASURE CHEST ALWAYS HAD MONEY IN IT.


I USED TO SET UP UNMANNED STANDS AND SELL THEM THAT WAY, BUT...


WHAT DO YOU USUALLY DO?
I BARTER WITH THEM.


WE SET DATES, MEET UP, AND TRADE...
...BUT I DOUBT THEY'D HELP US IF WE WENT NOW.
I HAVE SOME GOOD CLIENTS A LITTLE FARTHER DOWN.
DOWN...?
GOOD CLIENTS?
DO YOU DO YOUR BARTERING NEAR HERE?
WELL, WE'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING SOON.
!?
YOU WORKED SO HARD TO RAISE THEM!
THEY'RE SO GLOSSY AND DELI-CIOUS!
YOU GOT ATTACHED TO 'EM.
WE CAN'T DO THAT! YOU CAN'T WASTE FOOD!
I HARVESTED ALL THESE BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO LET THE FIELDS LIE IDLE, BUT...
...IF WE CAN'T USE THEM, WE'LL JUST THROW THEM AWAY.
"AROUND HERE," HUH...?
THEN I GUESS...
...WE'LL HAVE TO BARTER THEM SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE.


じろ
JIRO (GLARE)
MOST OF THEIR CUSTOMERS ARE...
コン
KON
コン
KON (KNOCK)
EVEN IN THE DUNGEON, THERE ARE MERCHANTS.
COME IN.
ガチャ
GII (CREEEAK)
...ADVENTURERS...
...AND PEOPLE WHO, FOR VARIOUS REASONS, CAN'T GO BACK ABOVEGROUND.


WAS IT EVER NOT SKETCHY?
IT WAS BETTER THAN THIS FIVE YEARS BACK.
THIS PLACE GETS SKETCHIER EVERY TIME I VISIT.
IT'S SMOKY...
KOFF!
WELL, WELL. ...HEH HEH.
JIRO (OGLE)
JIRO
AND WHAT MIGHT YOU BE TRADING?
HAVE YOU COME FOR LODGING OR FOR FOOD?
TO TRADE.
HYOKO (WOBBLE)
ひょこ
HEH HEH...
WELCOME, GUESTS.
VEGETABLES.


YOU MUST HAVE A KITCHEN HERE. AS INGREDI-ENTS...
WE DON'T WANT TO TRADE THESE FOR JEWELS.
THIS IS ROUND AND SHINY
IF YOU WANT TO DEAL, BRING MONEY!
YOU UNDER-STAND ME? MONEY!
THE ROUND, SHINY, GLITTERY STUFF!
BAN (BAM)
GET OUT! GO ON!
WAIT. AT LEAST LISTEN TO—
BARA
BARA (TUMBLE)
WHO'D EAT THAT DISGUST-ING THING!?
BASHI (WHAP)
SU (SHUF)
JUST SHOW THIS CARROT TO YOUR CHEF.
I WAGER HE'LL WANT TO COOK IT.
HURRY AND THROW THESE PEOPLE OUT!
JUST LISTEN TO—
IF YOU WASTE FOOD, YOU'LL PAY FOR IT.
HOW MEAN!


BO
(SHOOM)
O—
HUH
...!?
DOWN
(THUMP)
ORCS!


KILL THE ONES WITH WEAPONS FIRST!
LEAVE NO SURVI-VORS!
E
E
E
E
E
E
E
NEVER MIND THAT—WE HAVE TO RUN!
ZUN (TROMP)
WHY ARE THERE SO MANY ORCS HERE...?
THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE IN THE DEEPER LEVELS...
WAH...


NU (GOON)
WAI—!
WAIT.
GASHIRI (GRAB)
POSU (THUMP)
KURU (SPIN)
KURU
PON (TOSS)

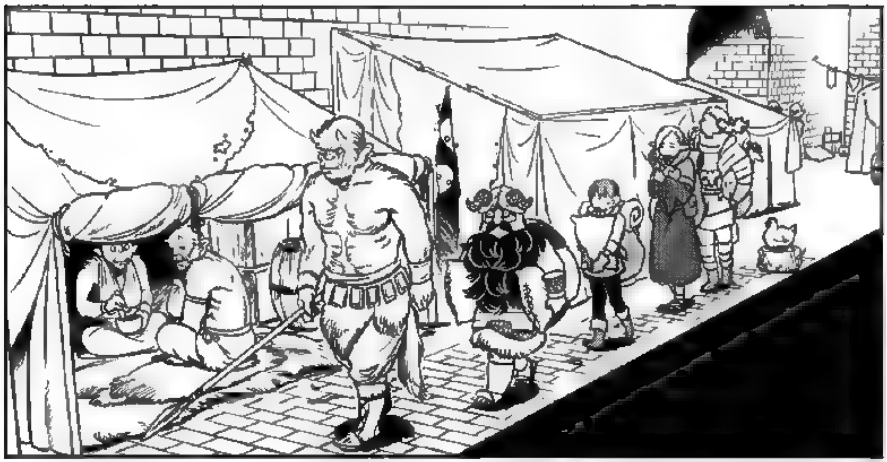

I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU THE SAME THING.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, SENSHI?
DON'T TELL ME YOUR GOOD CLIENTS ARE...
YEP.
ARE THESE YOUR FRIENDS?
NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D HANG AROUND WITH HUMANS AND ELVES...
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE KOBOLDS.
I THOUGHT IT WAS PROBABLY SOMETHING LIKE THAT, BUT ORCS?
I FIGURED GOBLINS, TOPS.
NRRRGH!
THEM.

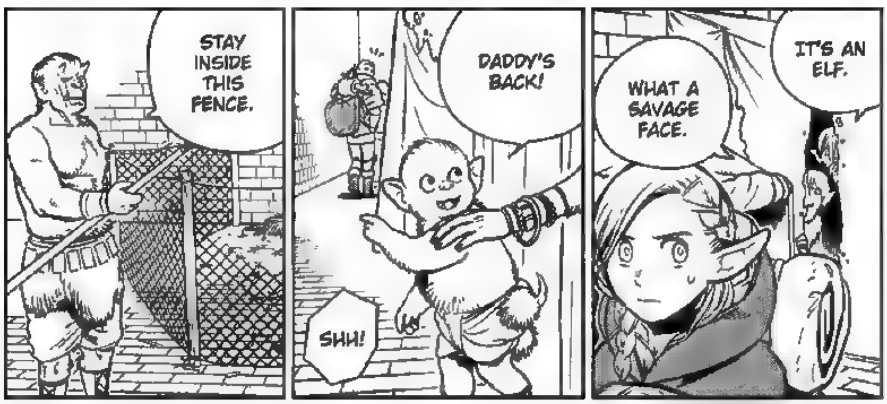

THE RED DRAGON APPEARED.
MANY OF OUR PEOPLE ARE UNABLE TO FIGHT.
WHOA, AN ELF.
MAN, SHE'S UGLY.
WE EVACUATED TEMPORARILY AND CAME UP TO THIS FLOOR.
IT'S ALMOST NEVER SHOWN ITSELF BEFORE, BUT...
...LATELY IT'S BEEN SEEN NEAR OUR VILLAGE MORE AND MORE REGULARLY.
WHERE DID YOU SEE THAT DRAGON!?
YOU WANT US TO TELL YOU WHERE OUR VILLAGE IS?
NO.
A RED DRAGON? YOU DON'T THINK...


WHAT'S THIS? ROTTEN MILK?
THROW IT OUT.
GOOD.
CHIEF, WE'RE DONE INSIDE.
TAKE ANYTHING THAT LOOKS USEFUL.
BARTER? IN THAT CASE, WE—
NO.
AS YOU CAN SEE, WE'RE LAYING IN STORES.
GACHA-CLANG
IF YOU COULD, SHARE THOSE WITH US.
...YOU GREW THOSE CROPS, RIGHT?
I HATE TO ASK IT OF A FRIEND, BUT...
...WOULD YOU GIVE US ALL YOUR CARGO?
I TOLD YOU. WE'RE HARD-PRESSED RIGHT NOW.

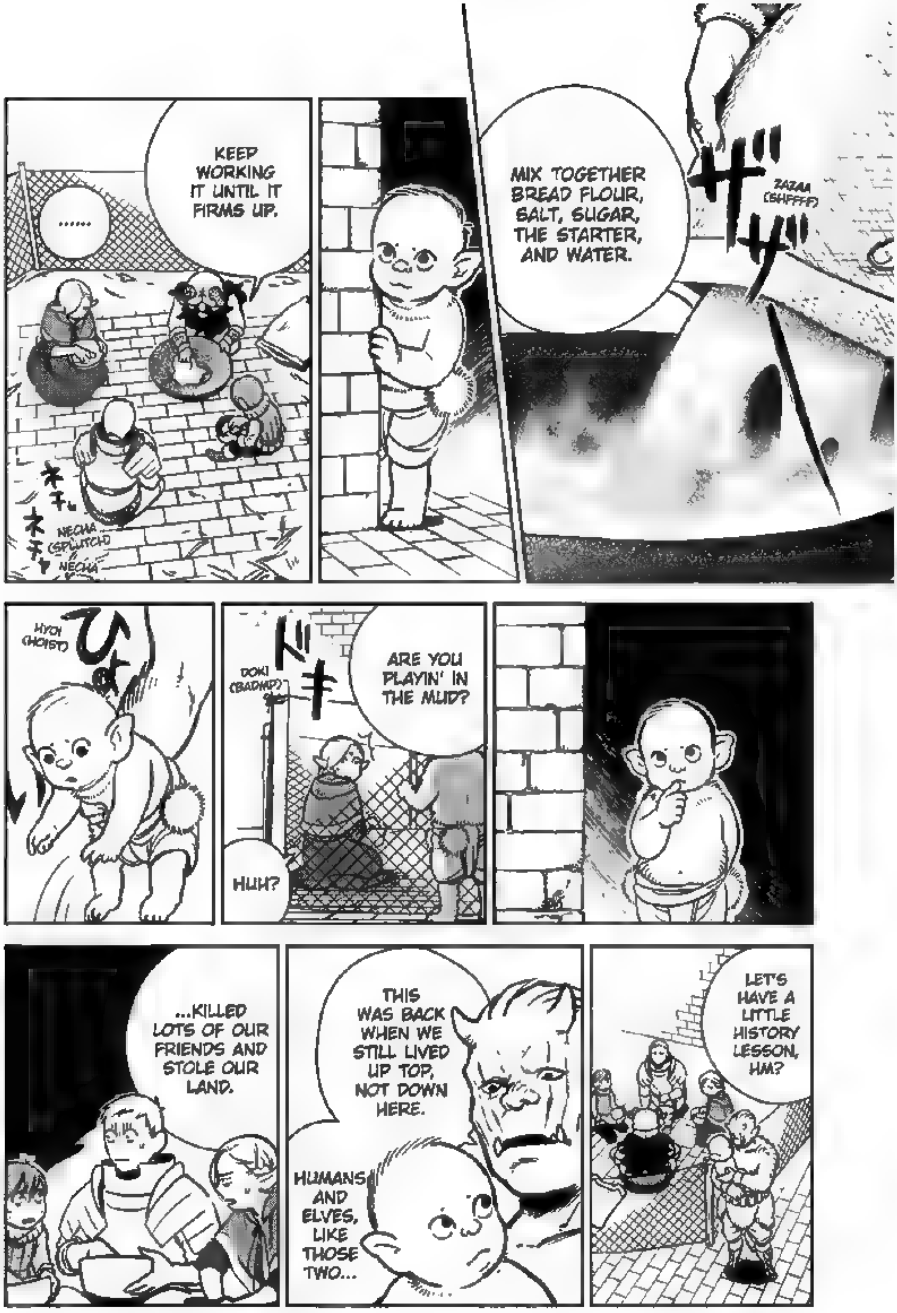

THAT'S GREAT.
IN EXCHANGE THOUGH, I'VE GOT ONE REQUEST.
...ALL RIGHT.
HAAAH...
.....
S-SENSHI...
LET US STAY AT YOUR CAMP TONIGHT.
IF YOU ALLOW THAT...
...WE'LL GIVE YOU ANYTHING—OUR VEGETABLES OR OUR LIVES—WITHOUT A FUSS.
HUH?
BISHI (JAB)
THAT ISN'T ROTTEN! IT'S FERMENTING!
AND YOU!
ABSOLUTELY TAKE IT BACK WITH YOU!!
KHA!!


YOU HAVE SOME SORT OF PLAN, DON'T YOU?
MM...
THEY TOOK OUR WEAPONS TOO...
IF WE LEARN WHERE THEY'RE CAMPED, WE'LL NEVER SEE THE SKY AGAIN.
WHY DID YOU SAY THAT!?
WE CAN MAKE BREAD!
IN OTHER WORDS...
AND THE ORCS TOOK THE FLOUR FROM THE KITCHEN.
GOKURI (GULP)
"IN OTHER WORDS" ...?
THAT BOTTLE I TOLD THE ORC TO TAKE ALONG A MINUTE AGO...
THAT'S BREAD STARTER MADE FROM YEAST.
YOU JUST WANTED TO MAKE BREAD!?
DUMMY!
DUMMY! DUMMY!
SO YOU DON'T HAVE A PLAN!?
DUMMY!
HEY! QUIET BACK THERE!




STAY INSIDE THIS FENCE.
DADDY'S BACK!
SHH!
WHAT A SAVAGE FACE.
IT'S AN ELF.


HAND IT OVER. I'LL MAKE YOU SOME BREAD.
IF YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO USE IT, IT'LL GO TO WASTE.
'SCUSE ME. WHERE DID THE BREAD STARTER GO?
DON'T TELL ME THE PUNCHLINE IS "YOU'RE WHAT'S ON THE MENU TODAY."


KEEP WORKING IT UNTIL IT FIRMS UP.
.....
NECHA (SPLUTCH)
NECHA
MIX TOGETHER BREAD FLOUR, SALT, SUGAR, THE STARTER, AND WATER.
ZAZAA (SHFFFF)
HYOI (HOIST)
DOKI (BADUMP)
ARE YOU PLAYIN' IN THE MUD?
HUH?
...KILLED LOTS OF OUR FRIENDS AND STOLE OUR LAND.
THIS WAS BACK WHEN WE STILL LIVED UP TOP, NOT DOWN HERE.
HUMANS AND ELVES, LIKE THOSE TWO...
LET'S HAVE A LITTLE HISTORY LESSON, HM?

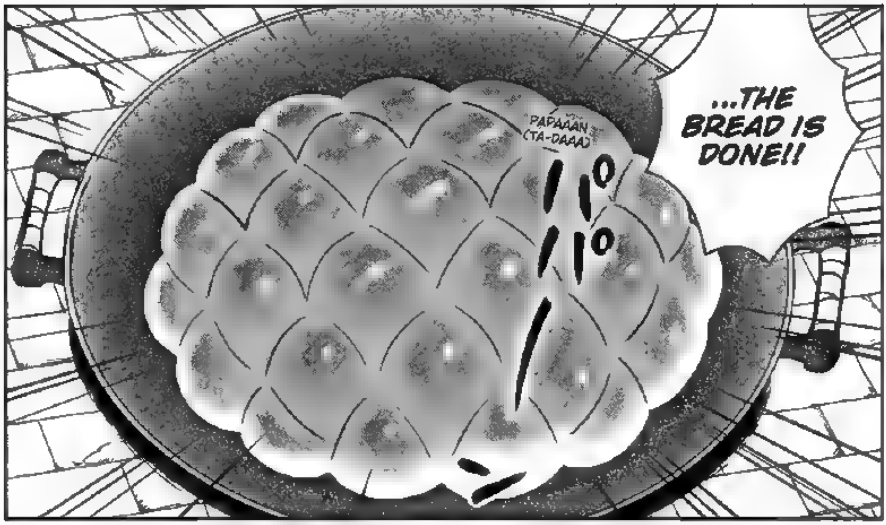

NOW WE ADD OLIVE OIL.
WHAT?
PIRI (TENSE)
ORCS KILLED LOTS OF THE OTHER RACES TOO.
BOSO (MUTTER)
...UNTIL THEY FOUND US AGAIN.
TO KNEAD THE DOUGH, HOLD IT BY ONE END AND WHACK IT AGAINST SOMETHING.
FOR A WHILE, WE HAD PEACE.
CHASED FROM ABOVEGROUND, WE WANDERED UNTIL WE FOUND A PLACE UNDER THE EARTH.
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU KEPT PLUNDERING OTHER RACES' VILLAGES, AND YOU KNOW IT!
BACHIN (THWAP)
THEY POURED OIL UNDERGROUND AND SET FIRE TO IT.


STOP IT, MARCILLE.
THAT'S ENOUGH...
YOU DID THAT EVEN BEFORE YOU CAME DOWN HERE. THAT'S WHY YOU GOT CHASED OUT.
WE HAD TO DO THAT TO SURVIVE.
BA (GRAB)
GIMME THAT. I'LL DO IT.
KNEAD THAT HARDER!!
SHUT UP, HALF-FOOT!
YES, SIR.
SORRY.
ONCE IT'S NICE AND ELASTIC, IT'S TIME FOR THE FIRST RISE.
THE VILLAGERS ABOVE IT FOUND IT FIRST.
WE FINALLY SETTLED IN THE DUNGEON, AND NOW YOU'RE TRYING TO TAKE THAT.
BACHIN (SMACK)
WE GOT CHASED FROM UP TOP AND FLED DOWN HERE.
IF THAT'S YOUR ANGLE, THE ZOMBIES WANDERING AROUND HERE WERE—
WE WERE THE FIRST ONES TO GO DOWN TO THE DEPTHS.


PLUUU (RINSE)
YOU AREN'T TALKING.
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THIS, HUMAN?
...SPLIT IT INTO EQUAL PIECES AND FORM THE SHAPES.
ONCE IT'S DOUBLED IN SIZE...
WHY ARE YOU HEADED FOR THE DUNGEON'S DEPTHS?
WHEN YOU GET THIS "COUNTRY," WHAT WILL YOU DO?
I HEAR IF YOU DEFEAT THE CRAZED MAGICIAN WHO MADE THIS DUNGEON...
...YOU'LL GET THE CASTLE AND EVERYTHING IN IT.


WELL, THAT'S JUST GREAT.
ALL ADVENTURERS ARE LIKE YOU.
...I HADN'T EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT IT.
I'VE HEARD THAT, YES, BUT...
I...
THAT'S WHY, WHENEVER WE SEE A TOP-SIDER, WE KILL THEM.
THE IDEA OF SOMEBODY LIKE YOU GETTING THIS CASTLE MAKES MY HAIR STAND ON END.
PICKING UP CASH FOR THE DAY.
TESTING THEIR SKILLS.
THEY'RE ALL GREEDY IDIOTS.
SECOND RISE.
I LIKE YOU.
...YOU'VE GOT SPUNK ANYWAY.
IN THAT CASE, YOU SHOULD TRY FOR THE THRONE!
THAT'S NOT LOGICAL!
SEE? YOU ALWAYS GO STRAIGHT TO VIOLENCE!
I THINK I'LL THROW YOU ONTO A FIRE WHILE YOU'RE ALIVE!
OR IS PLUNDERING ALL ORCS CAN DO?


FUUU (WHISK)
GAKON (CLANK)
ONCE IT'S RISEN NICELY...
LET IT STEAM A BIT.
PAKA (POP)
OPEN THE LID, AND...
...BAKE IT OVER A LOW FIRE, ONE SIDE AT A TIME.

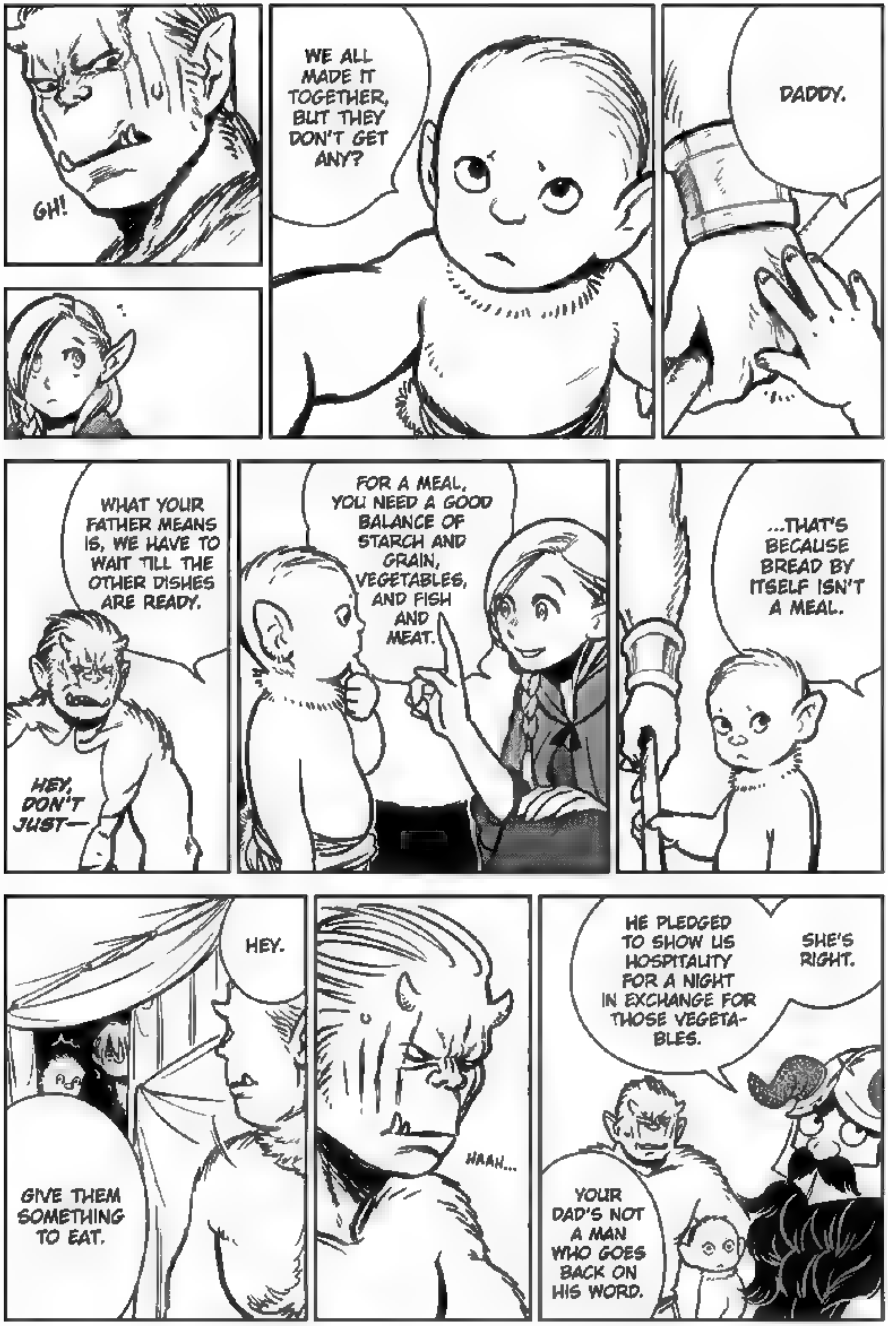


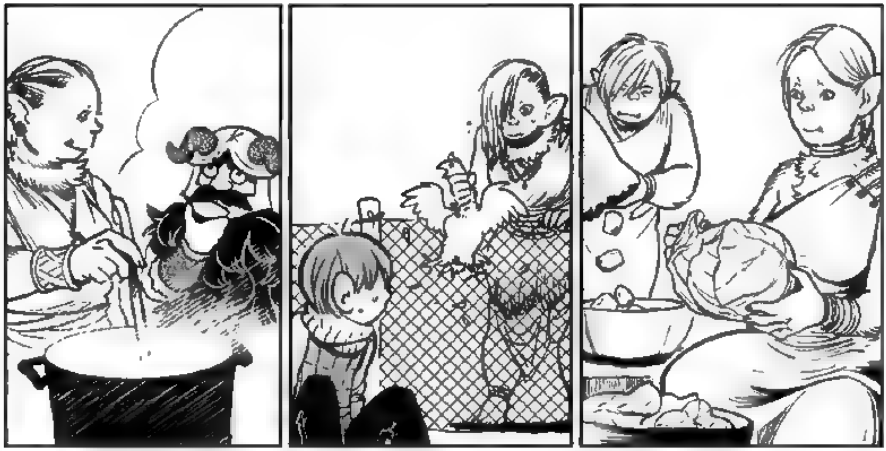


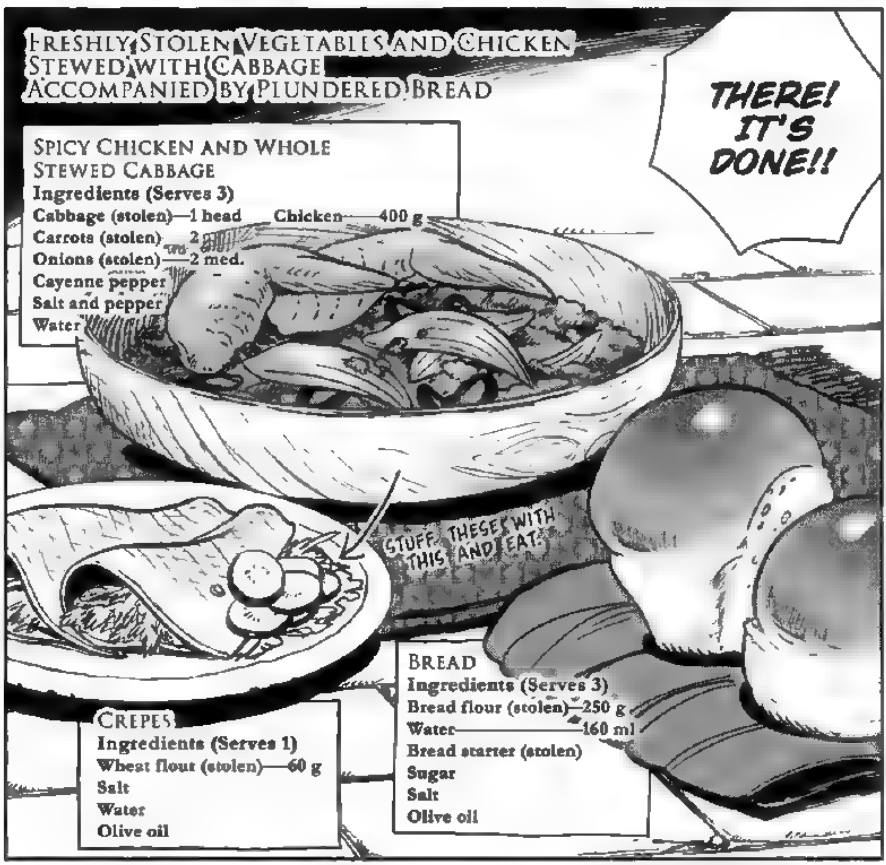


SFX: KUN (SNIFF) KUN




GH!
WE ALL MADE IT TOGETHER, BUT THEY DON'T GET ANY?
DADDY.
WHAT YOUR FATHER MEANS IS, WE HAVE TO WAIT TILL THE OTHER DISHES ARE READY.
HEY, DON'T JUST—
FOR A MEAL, YOU NEED A GOOD BALANCE OF STARCH AND GRAIN, VEGETABLES, AND FISH AND MEAT.
...THAT'S BECAUSE BREAD BY ITSELF ISN'T A MEAL.
HEY.
GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT.
HAAH...
HE PLEDGED TO SHOW US HOSPITALITY FOR A NIGHT IN EXCHANGE FOR THOSE VEGETABLES.
SHE'S RIGHT.
YOUR DAD'S NOT A MAN WHO GOES BACK ON HIS WORD.




FRESHLY STOLEN VEGETABLES AND CHICKEN STEWED WITH CABBAGE ACCOMPANIED BY PLUNDERED BREAD
THERE! IT'S DONE!!
SPICY CHICKEN AND WHOLE STEWED CABBAGE
Ingredients (Serves 3)
Cabbage (stolen)—1 head
Carrots (stolen)—2
Onions (stolen)—2 med.
Cayenne pepper
Salt and pepper
Water
Chicken—400 g
STUFF THESE WITH THIS AND EAT.
CREPES
Ingredients (Serves 1)
Wheat flour (stolen)—60 g
Salt
Water
Olive oil
BREAD
Ingredients (Serves 3)
Bread flour (stolen)—250 g
Water—160 ml
Bread starter (stolen)
Sugar
Salt
Olive oil


SHADDUP.
IT'S MADE FROM THE SAME THINGS, BUT IT'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.
I SAID ALL ORCS COULD DO WAS PLUNDER...
...BUT YOU DO COOK PRETTY WELL.
PAKU CHUNGH!
HOT!
Y-YUM!
TH-THANK YOU FOR THE FOOD.
EAT!
IF YOU TELL US WHERE IT IS, WE'LL DEFEAT IT!
I PROMISE WE WON'T INTERFERE WITH YOUR VILLAGE.
...WE'RE CHASING IT.
MY LITTLE SISTER GOT EATEN BY THE RED DRAGON.
UM...
YOU ASKED WHY WE WERE MAKING FOR THE DEPTHS.

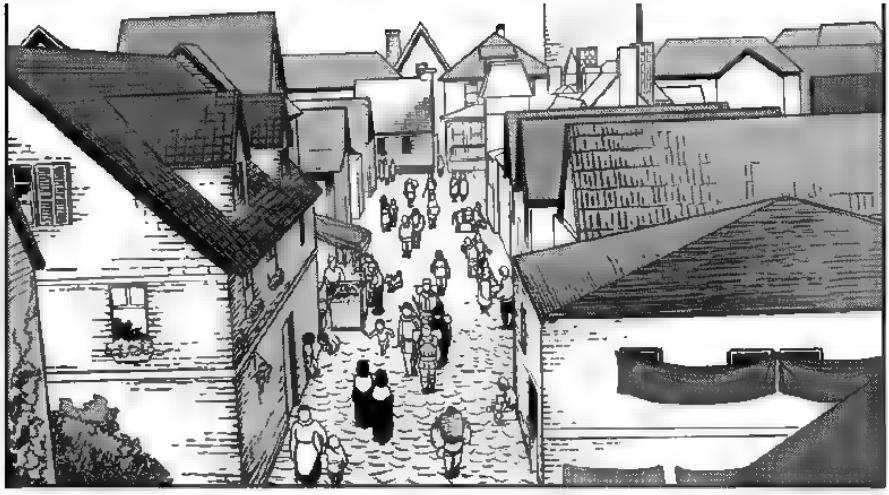

THANK YOU!!
TWO FLOORS BELOW HERE.
BASA (RUSTLE)
LAST TIME WE SAW IT, IT WAS NEAR THE WESTERN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT.
BRING A MAP.
UH...
HA!
I CAN'T SEE A GUY WHO SPENDS HIS TIME AS AN ORC CAPTIVE MAKING BREAD BECOMING KING.
...FROM NOW ON, I'LL GIVE CAREFUL THOUGHT...
...TO WINNING THE DUNGEON WHILE I EXPLORE IT.
WELL. GIVE IT YOUR BEST SHOT.

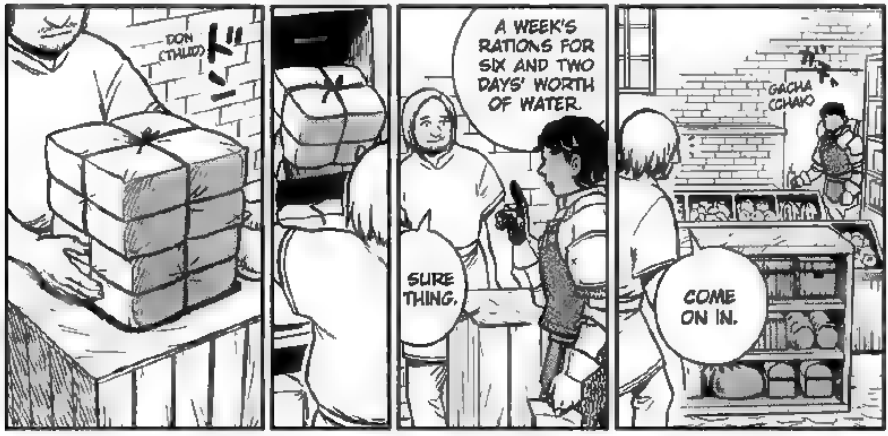

10. Snacks


HAAH...
LET'S REALLY SAVOR IT.
ONCE WE'RE BACK IN THE DUNGEON, I GUESS WE WON'T BE SEEING FOOD THIS GOOD FOR A WHILE.
HOW'S IT GOING? SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE DOING REAL GOOD THESE DAYS!
WHAT, YOU'RE HEADED DOWN ALREADY?


MEANWHILE, NONE OF THE MAJOR PLAYERS ARE GETTING ANYWHERE.
IS THAT RIGHT?
WASN'T SUCH A LONG TIME AGO YOU WERE A COUPLE OF GREEN-HORNS...
...BUT YOU'VE BECOME QUITE THE RESPECT-ABLE PARTY.
NO, NO. WE'RE STILL NOT—
MONEY SQUAB-BLES.
INFIGHT-ING.
DIS-APPEAR-ANCES.
NO, NO...
IT MIGHT BE SOME-BODY LIKE YOU WHO FINALLY BAGS THAT CRAZY MAGICIAN.


"OF COURSE WE'LL DEFEAT THE MAGICIAN."
HUH?
DON'T JUST SMILE AND GLOSS THINGS OVER.
YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD HIM STRAIGHT-OUT.
THAT'S WHY THIS TIME WE'RE GOING A BIT DEEPER.
LET'S PREPARE CARE-FULLY.
WHY DON'T WE JUST SHOW THEM INSTEAD?
"WE WON'T BE HAND-TO-MOUTH ADVENTURERS LIKE YOU PEOPLE."




DON (THUD)
A WEEK'S RATIONS FOR SIX AND TWO DAYS' WORTH OF WATER.
SURE THING.
GACHA (CHAK)
COME ON IN.


I NEVER WANT TO LIVE LIKE THAT.
I'D THINK HUNTING MONSTERS WOULD BE EASIER THAN ATTACKING PEOPLE.
WELL... WHEN THEY MEET OTHER ADVENTURERS, THEY EAT THEM!
WHEN YOU GO IN DEEP, FOOD'S A BIGGER PAIN THAN MONSTERS.
I WONDER WHAT PEOPLE DO WHEN THEY STAY DOWN THERE A MONTH.
JUST A WEEK'S WORTH, AND IT'S THIS HEAVY.


YAAH!
WE'RE FINE.
WE'VE NEVER BEEN TO THIS FLOOR BEFORE, BUT IT'S EASY.
WHEW.
IS EVERY-BODY OKAY?
(THUD)
LET'S BE CAREFUL.
IT'S TRUE THAT SKILLED PARTIES ARE HAVING TROUBLE.
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT COULD HAPPEN HERE.
I THINK WE COULD PROBABLY GO DEEPER.


...I HEAR THE DUNGEON'S BEEN STRANGE LATELY.
HE WAS TALKING ABOUT PROBLEMS WITHIN THE GROUPS.
WELL, SURE, THAT TOO, BUT...
SOMETHING ODD IS DEFINITELY GOING ON.
THEY SAY THE MONSTERS ARE MORE ACTIVE THAN USUAL...
...AND THAT THE DUNGEON'S LAYOUT IS SHIFTING...
HEY!
YES, SIR.
GOSO RUMMAGE
GOSO
LET'S ALL KEEP OUR GUARD UP.


THERE YOU GO, WASTING TIME AGAIN.
OPEN IT!
HE HAD SOMETHING.
...BOOKS THAT AREN'T LEGIBLE ANYMORE...
ANCIENT, RUSTY COINS...
...COSMETICS...
...AND FORBIDDEN MEDICINAL HERBS.
THERE COULD BE A PILE OF COINS IN THERE. WE DON'T KNOW.
NOTHING GOOD EVER COMES OUT OF THOSE.
WHA...!?
WHAT IS IT!?
BUT THE ZOMBIE HELD ON TO THIS FOR DEAR LIFE.
EVEN AFTER HE WAS DEAD.
WE MIGHT AS WELL TAKE A LOOK.

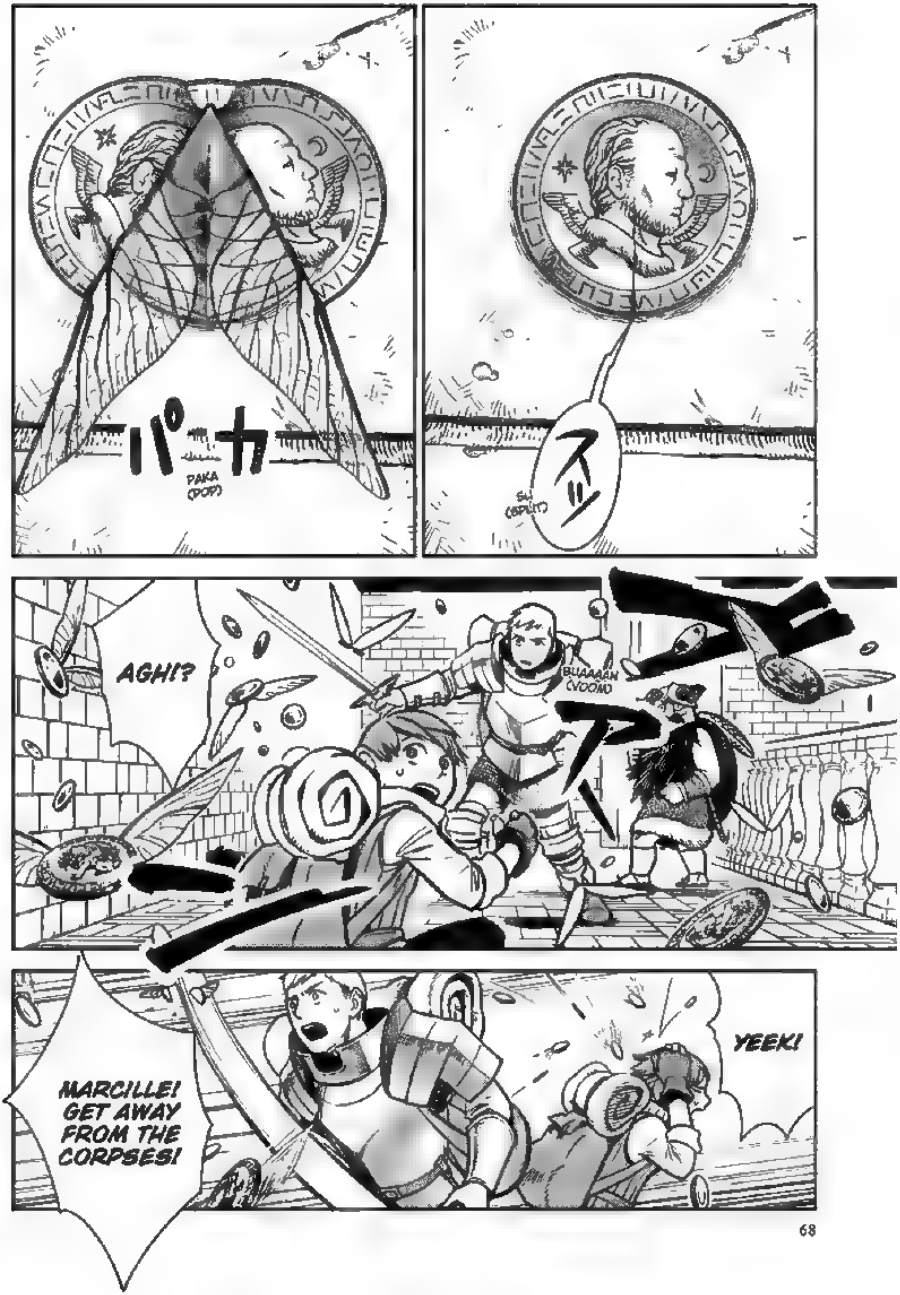

WHOA!
LOOK AT ALL THAT TREASURE!
WELL, IN ANY CASE, THIS IS GREAT.
GOING INTO THE DEPTHS GETS EXPENSIVE.
I THOUGHT THEY'D STRIPPED ALL THE TREASURE FROM THIS AREA ALREADY.
MAYBE IT'S ANOTHER OF THE DUNGEON'S CHANGES?
ALL RIGHT. FOR NOW LET'S CALL IT QUITS HERE...
...AND GO BACK TO TOWN!
YEAH!


SOMEBODY GOT WIPED OUT HERE.
OH DEAR.
OOH...


I BET THEY FOUGHT OVER MONEY.
MAYBE THEY STARVED ?
I DON'T SEE MANY WOUNDS.
WAS IT A SPIRIT ATTACK?
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY WERE HEADED BACK TO TOWN TOO.
POOR THINGS.
THE CORPSE RETRIEVERS SHOULD FIND THEM SOON...
...BUT I'LL PRAY FOR THEM SO THEY DON'T TURN INTO ZOMBIES.
THE CORPSE RETRIEVERS WILL PROBABLY POCKET THEM ALL ANYWAY, Y'KNOW.
WHAT'LL WE DO WITH THESE?
LET'S AT LEAST GATHER THEM IN ONE PLACE.


WHOA!!
GAKUN-
(LURCH)
HUH!?
NOTH-
ING.
THE
SWORD
JUST
JUMPED
...
WHAT WAS
THAT ALL
ABOUT?
N-NO,
UH...
YEEG!
NURU
(SLIDE)
WHAT'S
GOING
ON?
IT'S
BEEN
QUIET
ALL THIS
TIME...
HEY!
DON'T WRAP
AROUND MY
FINGERS!


...THAT'S WHAT IT'S SAYING!!
IT FEELS LIKE...
DRAW
...
...ME!!
AH!
HUH!?


パカ
PAKA (POP)
SU (SPLIT)
AGHI?
BUAAAAN (VOOM)
MARCILLE! GET AWAY FROM THE CORPSES!
YEEK!


GUGUGU (STRUGGLE)
HUH?
MAGNI-FIED
WAKI
WAKI (GGUIIRM)
WAKI
WAKI
KA-SHA (FLASH)

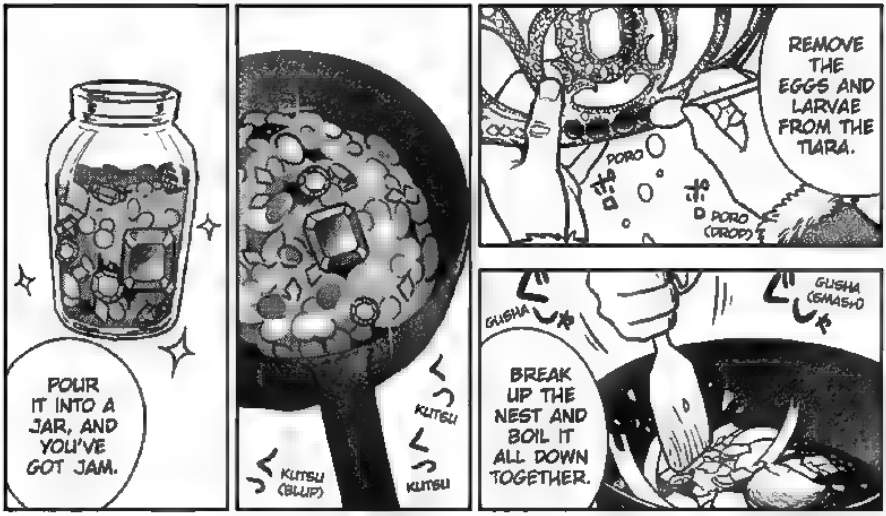

CHIKA (BLINK)
CHIKA
HAAAH...
HAAAAH...
ARE THEY ALL TREASURE INSECTS!?
ACK! WHAT IS THIS!?
GROSS!
CHIKA
CHIKA
WELL DONE, MARCILLE
A STUN SPELL, HM?
WE'RE LUCKY THAT WASN'T AN EXPLOSION.
BUBBLE (BZZZ)
I SEE. THEN THE TREASURE INSECTS WIPED OUT THAT PARTY.
I HAVEN'T SEEN THEM IN A WHILE, SO I DIDN'T CATCH ON.

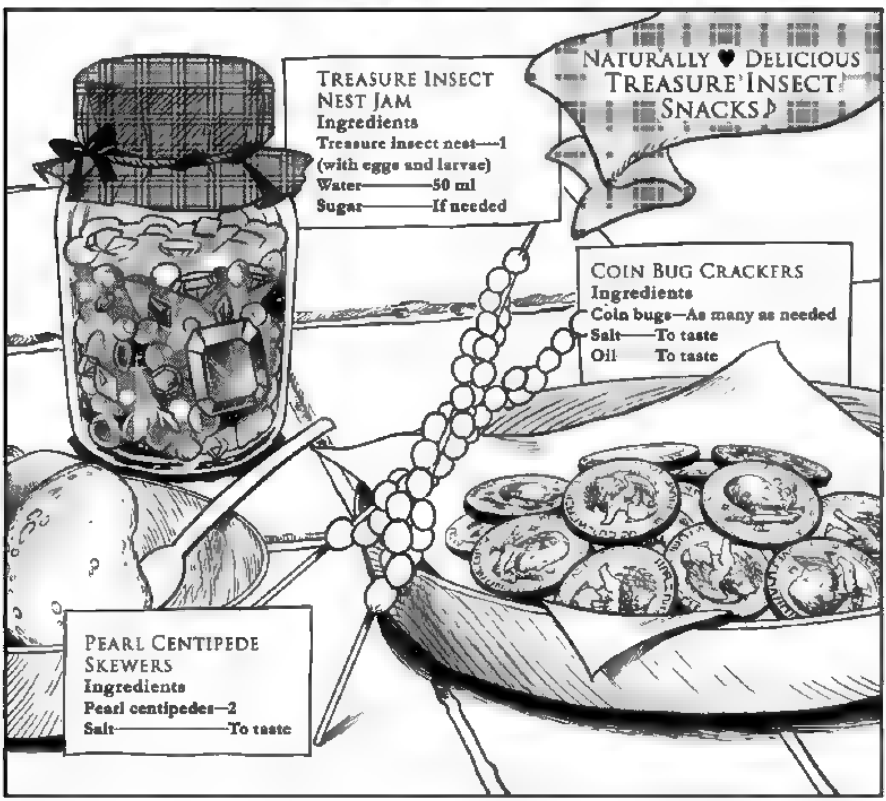

UH...
I THOUGHT... IT MOVED.
THE SWORD...
NUH-UH, YOU DID CATCH ON.
THAT'S RIGHT!
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
HE'S GETTING LESS AND LESS HUMAN.
IT'S QUIET NOW.
SO IT REALLY WAS RESPOND-ING TO THE TREASURE INSECTS?
チン
CHIN (CLINK)


PUI (TOSS)
THESE AREN'T.
THESE ARE EDIBLE.
OH WOW. HE'S SORTING THEM.
2000
SA (SHIP)
SA
SA
SA
ON TOP OF THAT, THEY'RE PRETTY.
DON'T SHOW ME THE BACK SIDE.
BUGS ARE A TERRIFIC FOOD. REAL NUTRI-TIOUS.
THEY'VE GOT GOOD FLAVOR, AND LOTS OF IT.
ARE THESE GOOD?
OF COURSE.


THIS ONE'S EASY.
THERE ARE LEGS BETWEEN THE SEGMENTS.
HOW CAN YOU TELL WHICH ONES ARE EDIBLE?
DEPENDS.
GUNI (SQUEEZE)
WITH RINGS, THE BAND IS SPRINGY.
THORAX
HEAD
ABDOMEN
WITH BROOCHES AND COINS, CHECK THE BACK.
FRONT
BACK
IT'S NEAT THAT MALE AND FEMALE COIN BUGS HAVE DIFFERENT IMAGES.
MALE
FEMALE
WELL, LET'S COOK 'EM WHILE THEY'RE STUNNED.
PUKA (BOO)
IF YOU PUT THE TIARAS IN WATER, YOU CAN TELL RIGHT AWAY.
IF IT FLOATS, IT'S A TREASURE INSECT. THEY'RE LIGHT.


THEN THREAD A SKEWER THROUGH 'EM AND ROAST 'EM.
PORO (PLUCK)
THEY FEEL NASTY IN YOUR MOUTH, SO TAKE THE LEGS OFF THE PEARL CENTIPEDES.
CHAAA (HISS)
ABDOMEN
FRY THE COIN BUGS WITH THEIR ABDOMENS FACING DOWN.
HEAT UP SOME OIL.
IF YOU SERVE 'EM WITH THEIR BACKS FACING UP, THEY'RE PRETTY.
ZAAAA (SHUF)
HUP!
...THEN TOSS THEM IN THE OIL TILL THEY'RE EVENLY COATED.
SPRINKLE ON SOME SALT...
GASHA
GASHA (SHUF)

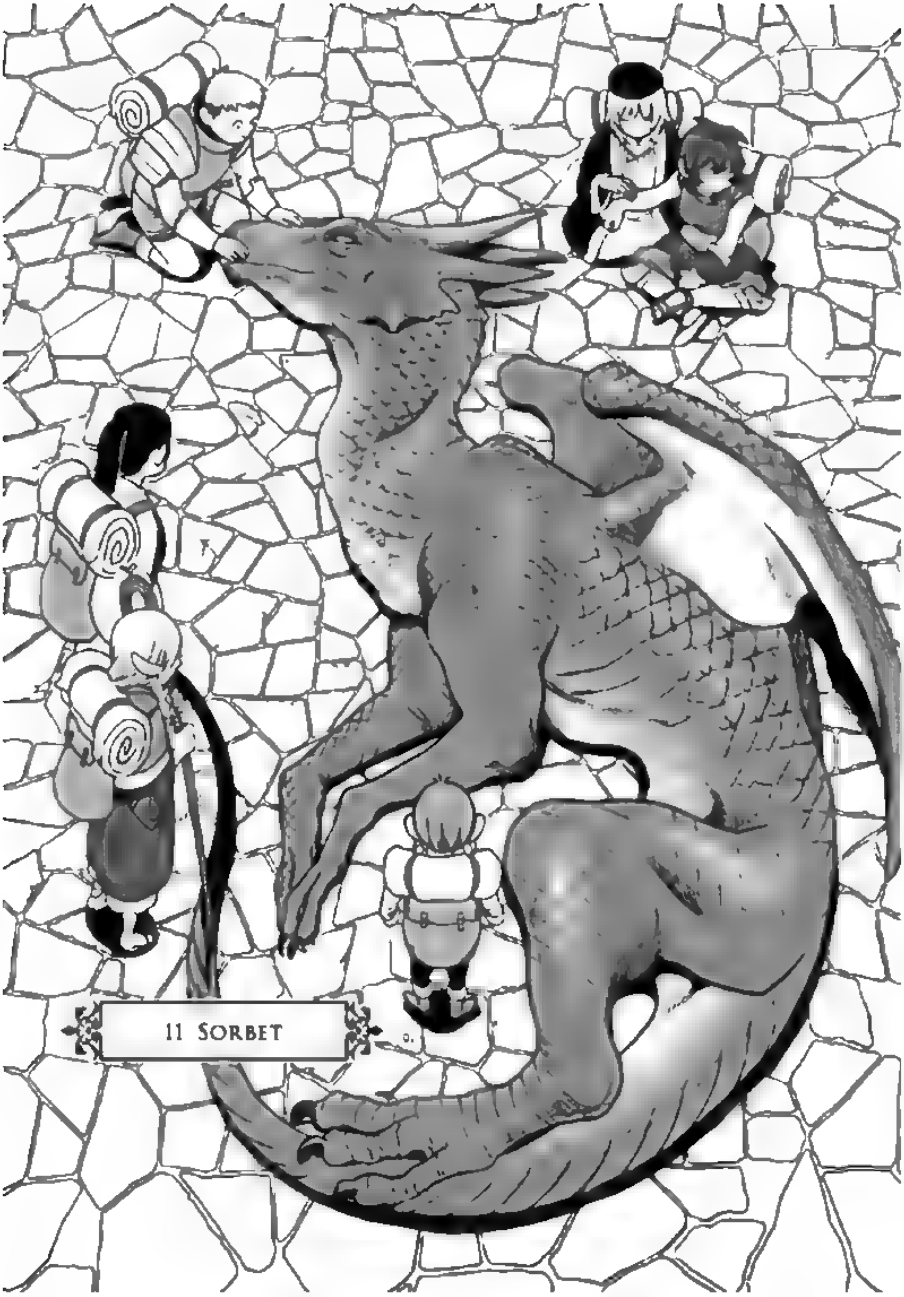

POUR IT INTO A JAR, AND YOU'VE GOT JAM.
KUTSU (BLUP)
KUTSU
KUTSU
REMOVE THE EGGS AND LARVAE FROM THE TIARA.
PORO
PORO (DROP)
GUSHA
GUSHA (SMASH)
BREAK UP THE NEST AND BOIL IT ALL DOWN TOGETHER.


NATURALLY ♥ DELICIOUS TREASURE INSECT SNACKS
TREASURE INSECT NEST JAM
Ingredients
Treasure insect nest—1 (with eggs and larvae)
Water——50 ml
Sugar——If needed
COIN BUG CRACKERS
Ingredients
Coin bugs—As many as needed
Salt——To taste
Oil——To taste
PEARL CENTIPEDE SKEWERS
Ingredients
Pearl centipedes—2
Salt——To taste


THEY LOOK ALISPICIOUS, SO THEY'RE GOOD LUCK.
THEY'RE SORT OF A FOLK DISH, AREN'T THEY?
BOILED IN SOY SAUCE
STILL, I'VE EATEN COIN BUGS BEFORE.
THEY'RE PRETTY, BUT NOT VERY APPETIZING.
MOST DUNGEON MONSTERS TASTE BETTER THAN THE ONES ON THE OUT-SIDE.
THEY LOSE FLAVOR ABOVE-GROUND.
THIS IS WAY BETTER THAN THE ONES I ATE BEFORE.
HUH!?
WELL, SURE.
SAKU (CRUNCH)
EVEN THE SAME MONSTER TYPES TASTE BETTER ON LOWER LEVELS.
I CAN'T WAIT.
THESE ARE GOOD. LIKE LITTLE FISH.
SOMETHING GOOEY JUST...
I'M NEVER WEARING NECK-LACES AGAIN.
BORI (CRUNCH)
BORI


SFX: MUGU (MUNCH)
むぐ
THEY CAMOUFLAGE THEMSELVES TO HIDE FROM ENEMIES TOO. JUST LIKE YOU.
IS THAT WHY YOU RE-ACTED?
IT'S NICE AND SWEET.
THEY REALLY DO LOOK EXACTLY LIKE JEWELS.
GATATA (RATTLE)
GATA
GATA
IT'S NOTHING.
WAIT...
GYU (SQUEEZE)
YOU'RE SO CUTE.
I'M GOING TO NAME YOU.
IT'S THREATENING THEM.
DID IT THINK OF ME AS A COMRADE? WAS IT TRYING TO HELP ME DEFEAT THEM?


WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU EAT THE INEDIBLE ONES?
DO THEY TASTE BAD?
OR ARE THEY TOXIC?
?
POI (TOSS)
READY TO MOVE ON?
SFX: JYARA (CLINK)
IS IT OKAY TO THROW AWAY THE ONES WE CAN'T EAT?
YOU CAN, BUT. .
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T EAT REAL JEWELS.
SAY THAT SOONER!!
OKAY!
YOUR NAME IS KENSUKE!
GATA (RATTLE)
ガタ
GATA
CHAPTER 10: THE END


11 SORBET


AREN'T YOU DONE WITH THAT YET?
IT'S MORE FOOD THAN YOU'D THINK...
MOGU (MUNCH)
もぐ
ZOKU (SHUDDER)
ぞく
HIYA (CHILL)
ひや
I SWEAR. YOU MAKE ME TIRED.
IT GOT COLD ALL OF A SUDDEN.


GHOSTS?
THEY WERE PROBABLY DRAWN TO THOSE CORPSES.
THAT'S A LOT OF GHOSTS.
LET'S GO. WE'LL BE IN TROUBLE IF THEY SPOT US.
THOSE HAZY WHITE THINGS... AREN'T THOSE...?
...IT'S LONELY, ISN'T IT.
RIGHT. FALIN'S NOT HERE.
THEY'RE NOTHING, THOUGH. JUST CAST A SPELL, AND—
OH.
THEY SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO POSSESS THOSE CORPSES, AT LEAST...
IT WASN'T MUCH, BUT I DID SAY A PRAYER.


RUN!
SOME-
THING'S...
BACK
THERE.


AH!
PORO (DROP)
ZUWAA (FWOOSH)
YOU IDIOT ...!
WAAAUGH!


BUNA (SWIPE)
SUKA (SWISH)
PISH! (KRAK)
KEH
KEH
KEH...
PISH!
PISH!
EU (SHIFT)
PAAN (BANG)


THAT NOISE DREW A TON OF THEM.
HEE HEE
HEE!
AH HA!
HEE HEE...
HURRY, HURRY!
THE NEXT ONE'S COMING!
SORRY.
MY EARS!
SOMETHING MORE SUBTLE WOULD BE FINE, LIKE WHAT FALIN WOULD DO.
IS THAT BIG, FLASHY MAGIC ALL YOU'VE GOT, MARCILLE?
...SHE WAS REALLY GOOD WITH GHOSTS.
FALIN...
THAT'S LAIOS'S LITTLE SISTER. ANYWAY...
DON'T YOU KNOW HOW ADVANCED HER MAGIC WAS!?
"SUBTLE"!?

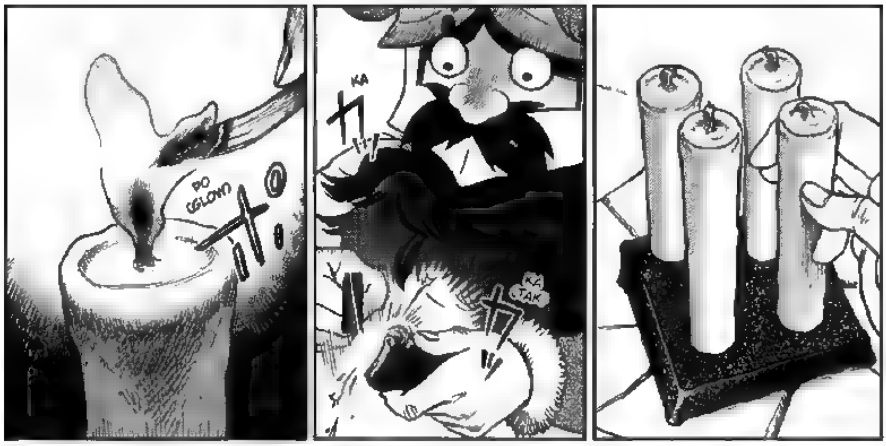

OKAY. YOU'LL BE FINE NOW.
PA (HEAM)
THE GHOSTS WON'T BE ABLE TO TOUCH YOU, MARCILLE.
TON (TAP)
I DON'T WANT TO DO THAT UNLESS I NEED TO.
IT'D BE EASY WITH YOUR MAGIC, RIGHT, FALIN?
LET'S MOVE
HM...
WOULDN'T IT BE FASTER TO JUST BLOW APART THE GHOSTS WHEN THEY SHOW UP?
SHE'S SUCH A GOOD GIRL...!
NICE THOUGHT, BUT...
TON (...)
IT WOULD JUST HURT THEM FOR NO REASON.
SHATTERED GHOSTS GO BACK TO NORMAL AFTER A WHILE.


AAA
AAA
AAA
HITA (STEP)
OKAY.
HANG ON. I'LL DISABLE HIM.
YEAH.
HE'S LISTED AS MISSING.
THE ONES THAT STEAL FOLKS' BODIES COULD USE A LITTLE PUNISHMENT, RIGHT?
WAIT, PALIN!
DON'T BE RECK-LESS!
LET ME DO IT. WE DON'T NEED TO HURT HIM.


GRRRR
I'M SORRY.
I'M TAKING HIM BACK.
GYUU (SQUEEZE)
GIRI (CREAK)
BUWA (WOOSH)
FALIN!
ZUTTU (SLUMP)


IF...
FALIN WAS REALLY INCREDIBLE.
YES.
IT SOUNDS LIKE SHE WAS IMPORTANT.
IT'S FINE IF I DO IT FALIN'S WAY, ISN'T IT!?
ARE YOU PLANNING TO BLOW UP EVERY ONE OF THOSE GHOSTS?
DON'T.
...I'LL JUST HAVE TO HANDLE THEM WITH MY MAGIC.
IF THE GHOSTS CATCH UP TO US...
HEE HEE!
HEE HEE!
HEE
BUTSU!
A GENTLY ENFOLDING EXPLOSION.
BUTSU (MUTTER)
EXPLODE THEM GENTLY.
YOU CAN'T!?
YOU REALLY CAN'T, ALL RIGHT!?

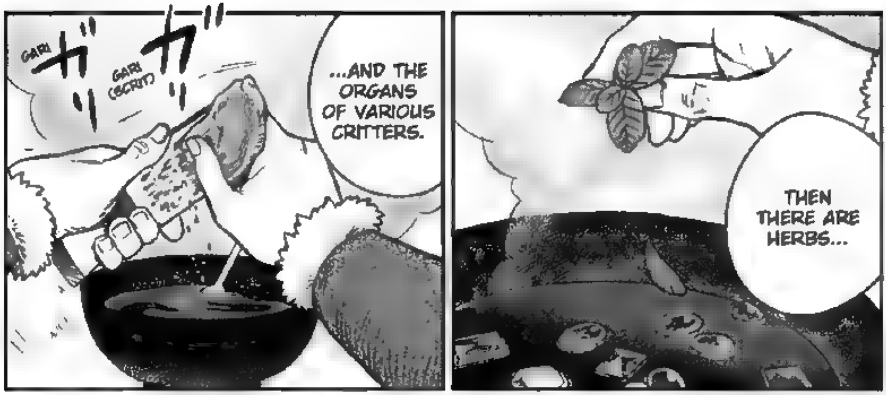

HE'S RIGHT. IF WE JUST STAND HERE ARGUING, THEY'LL CATCH US.
UM, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HAH!
...IT LOOKS LIKE IT WON'T BE EASY TO ESCAPE THE DEAD.
A TALISMAN?
HOLY WATER.
MAKING A TALISMAN TO EXORCISE THE GHOSTS.
PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD HAVE ALL KINDS OF CUSTOMS FOR EXPELLING VARIOUS DEMONS.
YOU'RE A CLERIC?
YOU'RE MAKING IT...?
YOU HAVE THAT!?
NO. I'M MAKING SOME NOW.

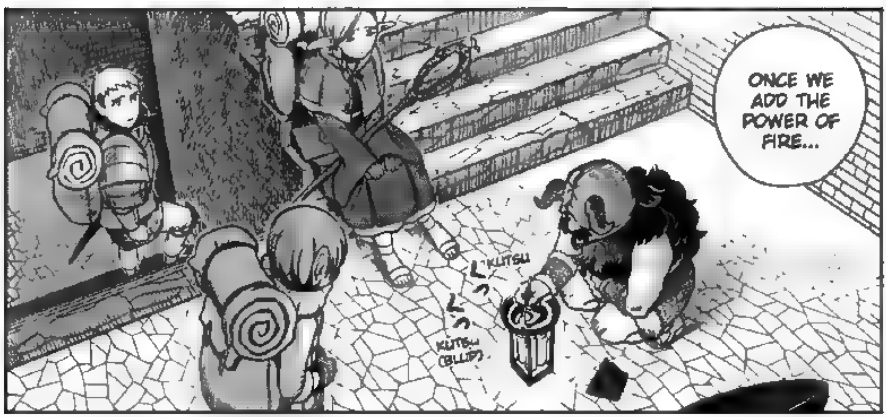

DO GLOW!
KA
KA TAK

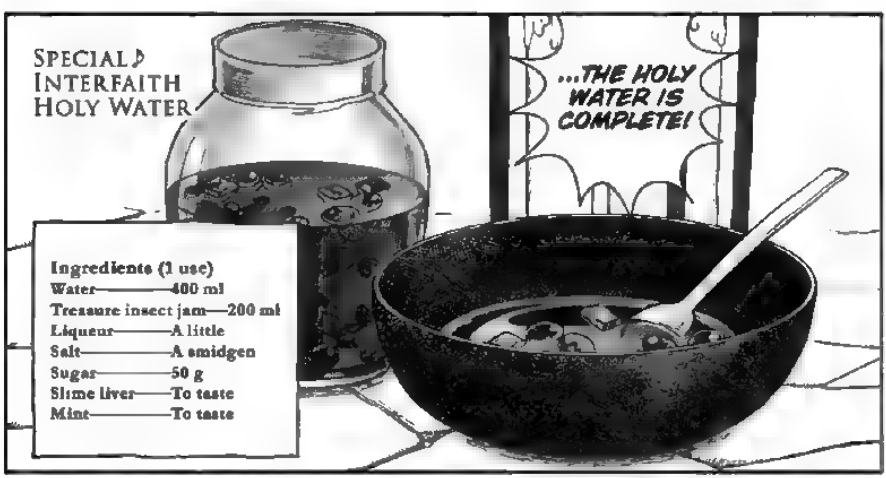

FIRE DRIVES AWAY THE DARKNESS. IT CAN CREATE OR CONSUME.
IT'S BEEN USED AS A TALISMAN AND SACRED OBJECT IN ALL AGES AND PLACES.
FIRE, FOR ONE.


INDIVID-UALLY, THEY'RE WEAK, BUT...
...TO-GETHER THEY'LL GENERATE DECENT POWER.
THAT'S TRUE, BUT...
...AGAINST GHOSTS, CANDLE FLAMES WON'T—
KOTO (TUNK)


BOCHA (SPLAT)
TAKE GOLD BEETLES, FOR EXAMPLE.
ON ACCOUNT OF THEIR DUNG-ROLLIN' AND SUCH, THEY WERE WORSHIPPED AS SYMBOLS OF THE MOVEMENT OF THE SUN AND ITS GOD.
DOES HE MEAN SCARABS?
TOKU (GLUG)
TOKU
PACHA (SPLISH)
OR ALCOHOL.
AS AN OFFERING TO THE GODS, IT'S ESSENTIAL, AND IT HAS STERILIZING PROPERTIES AS WELL.
ITS POWERS ARE WEAK, SO I'LL PUT IN LOTS.
...AND SUGAR LOOKS LIKE SALT, SO I'LL ADD THAT TOO.
ZAA (SHUFFF)
COULD YOU GET ANY MORE SLAP-DASH!?
PARA (SHIFT)
OR SALT.
SOME PEOPLE USE IT TO WARD OFF EVIL AND PURIFY THEIR BODIES.


GARI
GARI (SCRIT)
...AND THE ORGANS OF VARIOUS CRITTERS.
THEN THERE ARE HERBS...


ONCE WE ADD THE POWER OF FIRE...
KLITSU
KLITSU (SLLIP)


SPECIAL♪ INTERFAITH HOLY WATER
...THE HOLY WATER IS COMPLETE!
Ingredients (1 use)
Water——400 ml
Treasure insect jam——200 ml
Liqueur——A little
Salt——A smidgen
Sugar——50 g
Slime liver——To taste
Mint——To taste


JUST HANG ON.
BIND IT WITH CORD...
HERE THEY ARE!
SEAL IT!?
WE'RE NOT GOING TO USE IT!?
FILL A JAR WITH HOLY WATER, THEN SEAL IT TIGHTLY.
NU-OOOOH
KYA HA!
SFX: ZOKU (SHUDDER)
IF THIS KEEPS UP, WE'LL...
AH...
HEE HEE HEE!

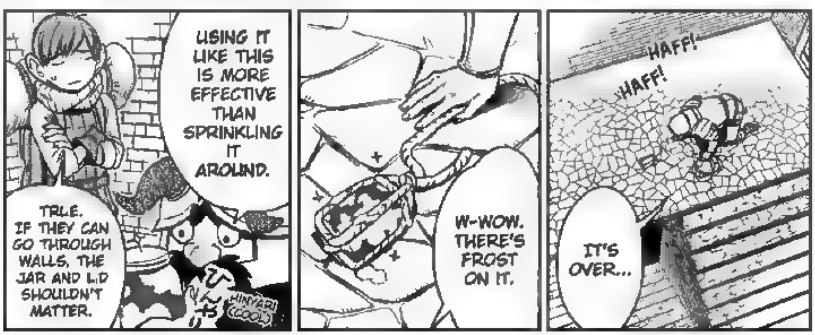

IT'S NO USE.
IF I'D BEEN THE ONE EATEN BY THE DRAGON...
...THINGS WOULDN'T BE IN THIS WRETCHED STATE.
IF ONLY SHE HADN'T PROTECTED ME BACK THEN.
FORGIVE ME, FALIN...



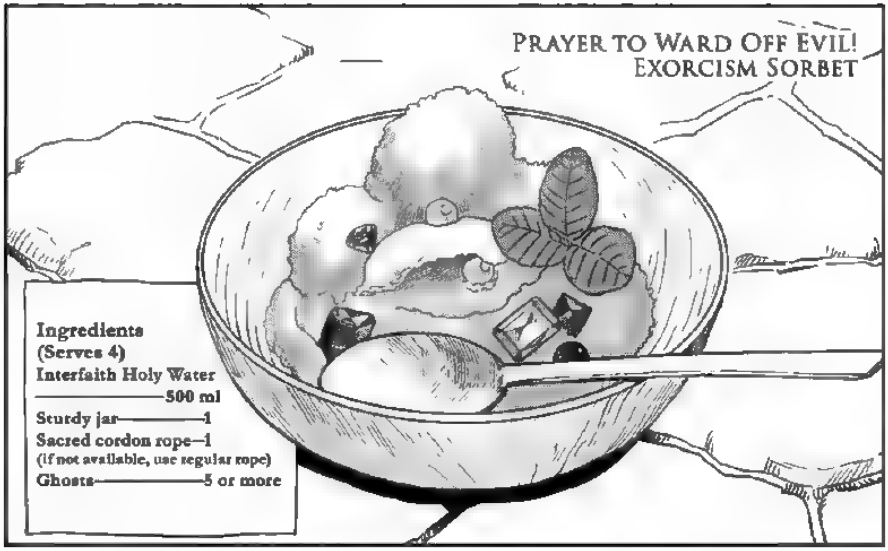

AAAH!
I JUST SAW MY DEAD DAD ACROSS A RIVER...
.....
WH-WHAT IS THAT?
THE GHOSTS THAT TOUCH THE JAR OF HOLY WATER ARE VANISHING.
THAT HOLY WATER ACTUALLY WORKS.
SO IT WASN'T A JOKE...


AND ANYWAY, SHE'S NOT A GHOST YET!
FALIN WOULD NEVER...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
I MIGHT HAVE BEEN POSSESSED.
...BY FALIN.
WE'RE ALL WE HAVE NOW...
...SO WE HAVE TO USE THE POWER WE'VE GOT.
THINKING THAT ONLY FALIN WAS CAPABLE OF HANDLING SOME-THING...
...OR THAT IT WOULD BE EASIER WITH HER HERE.
SENSHI.
LET ME HELP TOO.
... YOU'RE RIGHT.




USING IT LIKE THIS IS MORE EFFECTIVE THAN SPRINKLING IT AROUND.
TRUE. IF THEY CAN GO THROUGH WALLS, THE JAR AND LID SHOULDN'T MATTER.
HIIYAAH! (COOL)
W-WOW. THERE'S FROST ON IT.
HAFF!
HAFF!
IT'S OVER...

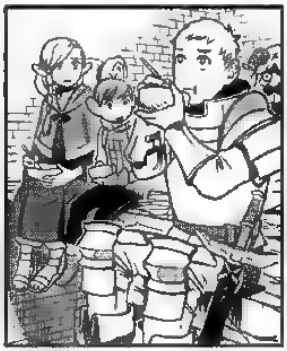

WE'VE GOT ICE CREAM.
PERO CUCIO
HM?
WAIT, THIS IS...

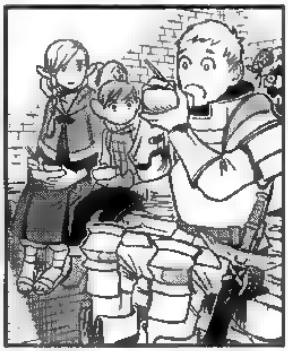

PRAYER TO WARD OFF EVIL!
EXORCISM SORBET
Ingredients
(Serves 4)
Interfaith Holy Water
——————500 ml
Sturdy jar——————1
Sacred cordon rope—1
(if not available, use regular rope)
Ghosts——————5 or more


I THINK WE'VE EATEN TOO MUCH SUGAR TODAY TOO.


YOU'D THINK INGESTING HOLY WATER THAT POWERFUL WOULD CAUSE PROBLEMS.
IS IT OKAY TO EAT SOMETHING THAT HAD GHOSTS ALL OVER IT?


IT'S GOOD.



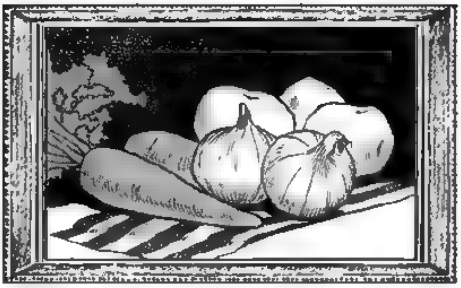



I GUESS WE EXORCISED THEM WITHOUT CAUSING MUCH OF A GRUDGE.
MM-HM, MM-HM.
YOU'RE RIGHT. IT'S TASTY.
SHAKU (CRUNCH)
MY! WHAT A NICE, BRISK FLAVOR.
IS THAT WHY IT'S A LITTLE JIGGLY?
IT GOES DOWN NICE AND SMOOTH.
WHAT SORT OF "ORGANS OF VARIOUS CRITTERS" ARE IN HERE?
I GRATED SOME SLIME IN.
IF FALIN WERE HERE, WE WOULDN'T BE EATING SOMETHING THIS DELICIOUS NOW.
THIS IS...
WELL. YOU KNOW.


HUH!?
WHA...? YOU'RE ACTUALLY SAYING THAT!?
NOW!?
...YOU'RE GLAD THAT HAPPENED TO FALIN?
YOU MEAN ...

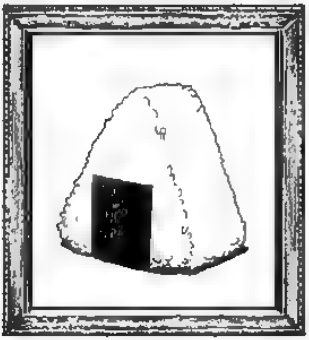

IF FALIN WERE HERE NOW, SHE'D SAY...
HE MEANT "EVERY CLOUD HAS A SILVER LINING."
...OR SOMETHING AND COVER FOR ME...
NO! I ONLY...
SOME THINGS ARE JUST NOT OKAY TO SAY.


SO WHAT'S REALLY COOLED IS YOUR FRIENDSHIP, EH?
HURRY AND COME BACK, FALIN!





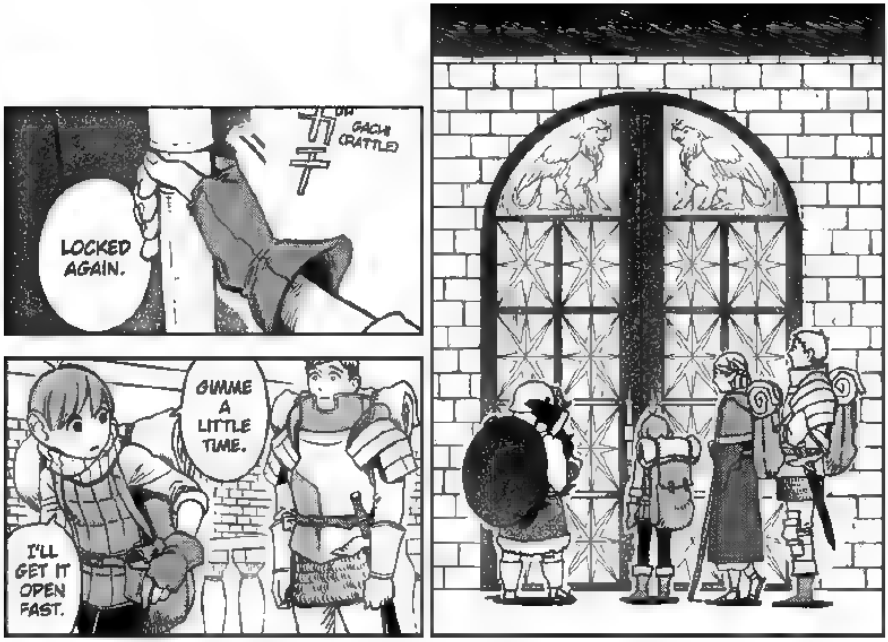




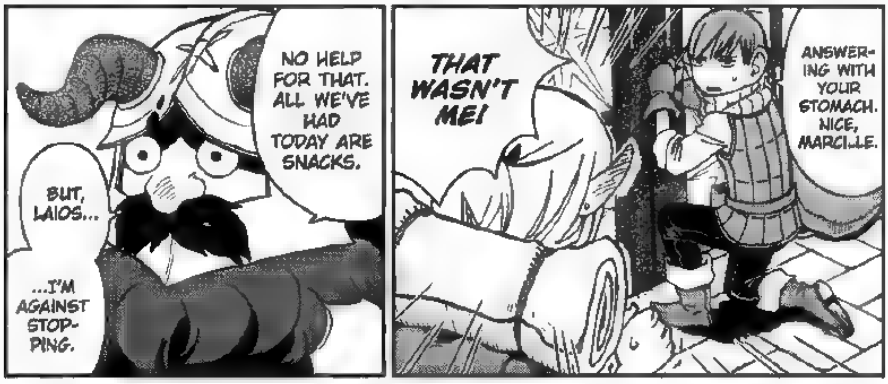


## 12. Court Cuisine

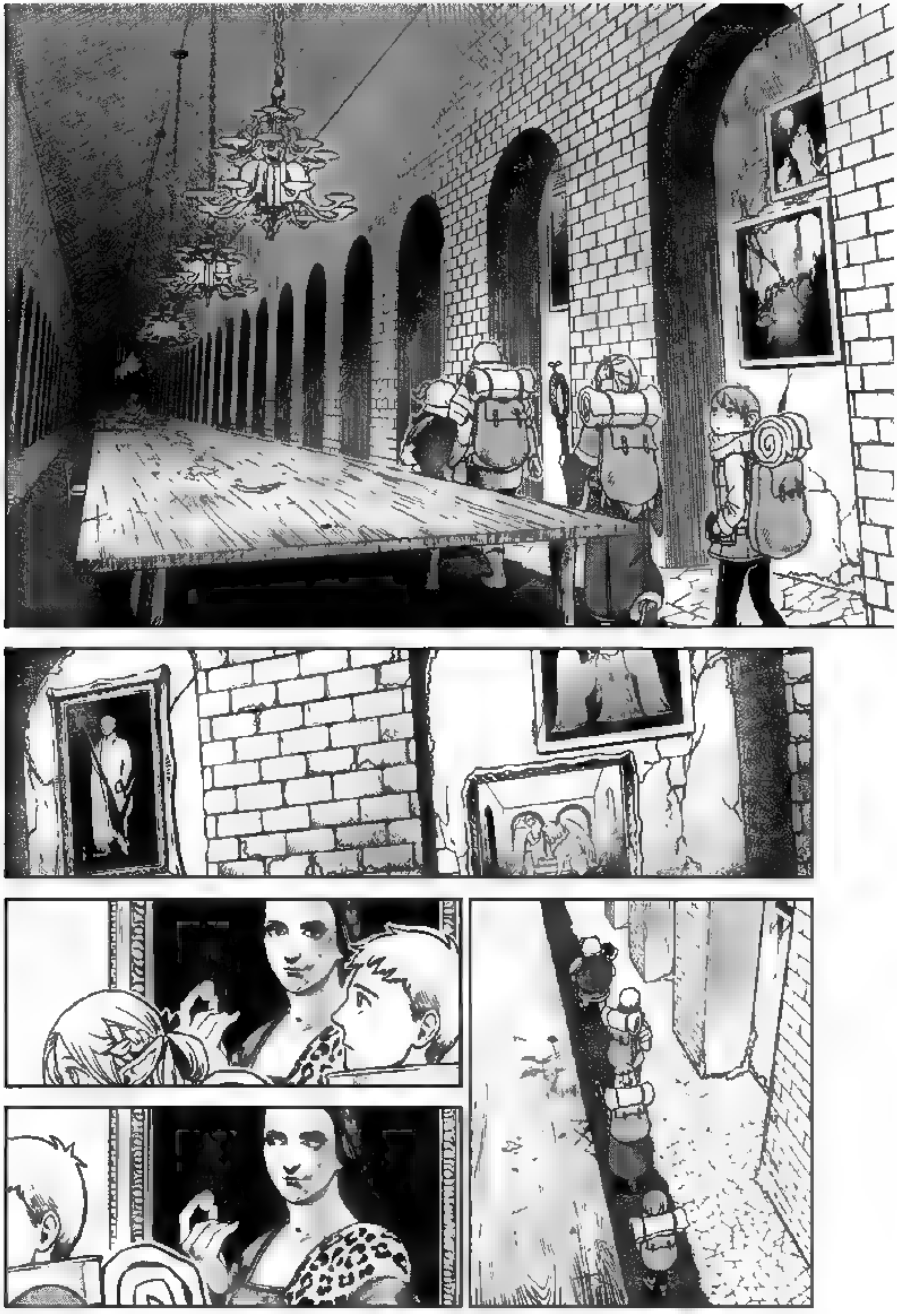



GACHA (RATTLE)
LOCKED AGAIN.
GIMME A LITTLE TIME.
I'LL GET IT OPEN FAST.


GUU (RUMBLE)
WE'VE WALKED A LONG WAY.
IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA TO REST NEAR HERE TODAY.
HMM.


NO HELP FOR THAT. ALL WE'VE HAD TODAY ARE SNACKS.
BUT, LAIOS...
...I'M AGAINST STOPPING.
THAT WASN'T ME!
ANSWERING WITH YOUR STOMACH. NICE, MARCILLE.


EVEN IF IT MEANS PUSHING OURSELVES A BIT, WE SHOULD MAKE FOR THE FOURTH FLOOR.
HMM...
THE ONLY FOOD WE FOUND TODAY WAS A BOWLFUL OF TREASURE INSECTS.
THERE'S FAR TOO LITTLE TO EAT ON THIS FLOOR.
...THOUGH EVEN IF WE DO REST UP, IF WE KEEL OVER FROM HUNGER...
BUT IF WE HAVEN'T SAVED OUR STRENGTH, WE WON'T DEFEAT THE MONSTERS AHEAD...
THE MONSTERS WILL GET STRONGER FROM HERE ON THOUGH.
I'D LIKE TO SAVE OUR STRENGTH.
GIII CCREEEAK
IT'S OPEN.
KACCHAN CCLICK
HMM...



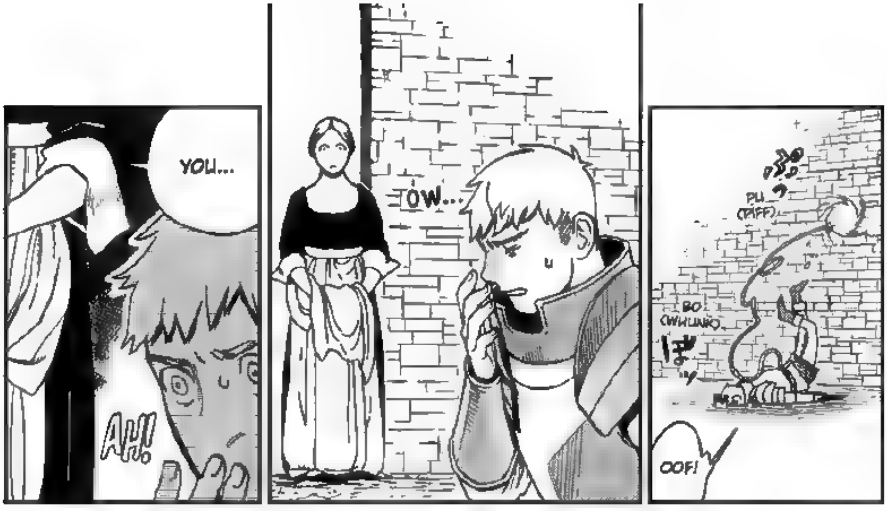

YOU THINK IT WAS A DINING HALL?
THIS MUST'VE BEEN A FINE BANQUET TABLE ONCE.
FWOO...
ZUU (DRAG)
HAAH...
WHY DO WE ONLY GET ATTACKED BY DEAD PEOPLE?
I'M NOT EATING RATS, ALL RIGHT!?
AND NOW ONLY THE DEAD COME TO CALL, HUH?
NO RATS, EVEN.
ATTACKING...
AH!
DON'T BE DUMB.
WHY NOT A WHOLE ROASTED PIG?


NO, THERE ARE SOME!
FOODS THAT WILL ATTACK US!
CHWAA (POOH)
BA (PHIP)
A LIVING PICTURE!
HEY, LAIOS!

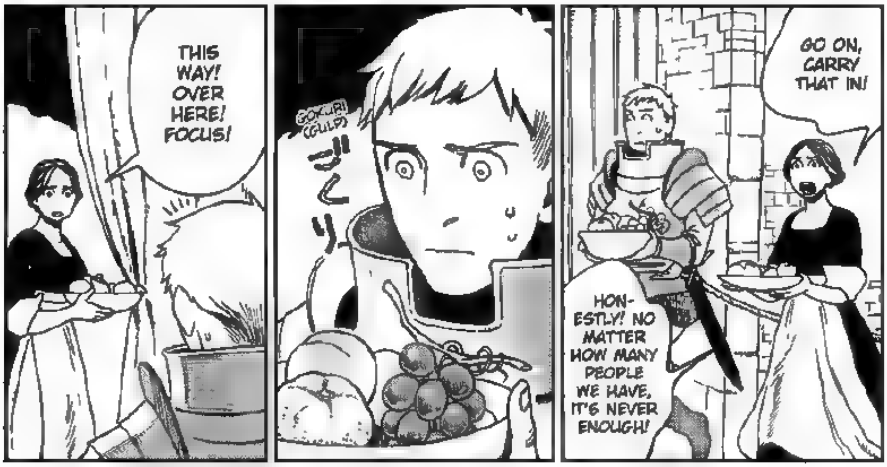

YOU'RE TOO CLOSE! DO YOU WANT TO GET PULLED IN!?
AW...
DOON (BOOM)
WHAT!?
YES! IT WAS JUST GETTING GOOD!
THAT PICTURE HAD GRAPES.
NO, I DON'T!
A-ARE YOU AN IDIOT?
FORGET "PIE IN THE SKY"— YOU'RE TALKING "PIE IN A PICTURE"!
RIGHT.
...YOU WERE TRYING TO EAT THE FOOD IN THE PICTURE.
YOU DON'T THINK IT'S A GOOD PLAN?


FINE. DO WHAT YOU WANT.
JUST ONCE THOUGH.
YOU'LL JUST GET KILLED IN A PIC-TURE.
THAT'S JUST IT!
THAT IT CAN PU..L US IN PROVES WE CAN INTERACT WITH EACH OTHER.
...TRUE, PEOPLE CAN'T EAT PIE IN A PICTURE...
...BUT IF IT'S PIE IN A PICTURE OF A PERSON EATING PIE, THE LOGIC HOLDS!
AH-HA!
THIS ONE'S AMAZING. LOOK AT THAT FEAST.
WHICH PICTURE SHOULD I TRY...?
I'LL TIE A ROPE AROUND YOU.
WHEN YOU SIGNAL, WE'LL PULL FROM HERE.
OKAY.
I PICK THIS ONE.


GUWA (WHIRL)
GUNYU (RIPPLE)
GA (LEAP)
HUP!!
GUPOOO (POP)


YOU...
AH!
OW...
PU (PFF)
BO (WHUMP)
OOF!


HERE!
!?
DOSA (WHUMP)
HUH?
MOZO (SQUIRM)
THAT SWORD...
CAUGHT RIGHT OFF THE BAT...
I DON'T RECOGNIZE THAT ARMOR. BUT YOU'RE A GUARD, AREN'T YOU?


THIS WAY! OVER HERE! FOCUS!
GOKURI (GULP)
GO ON, CARRY THAT IN!
HON-EST-LY! NO MATTER HOW MANY PEOPLE WE HAVE, IT'S NEVER ENOUGH!


YES.
YES, YOU WILL.
HE'LL LEAD THE COUNTRY WELL SOMEDAY.
HE HAS YOUR NOSE.
LOOK AT THAT CLEVER LITTLE FACE!
BIKU (FLINCH)
RIGHT !!
UM...
CAN I HAVE A BITE?
HURRY AND BRING THE NEXT ONE IN.
DON'T JUST STAND THERE!
HUFF... HUFF..
MIZLI
MIZLI (JUICY)


HA HA HA!
DEL-GAL.
GROW INTO A GOOD KING!
DEL-GAL!
YOUR NAME IS DELGAL!
FU FU FU!
HA HA HA!
GU (TUG)
GU
GET.
ME.
GU
OUT.
NOW.
GU
BA (PANTS)
I CAN'T!
I'LL NEVER GET A BITE IN HERE!
OH!


HOW WAS IT?
UNGH ...
I ALMOST MANAGED A TASTE, BUT...
POSA (WHUMP)
ZURU (DRAG)
ZURU
ZURU
AND HEAVE!
THAT'S A PROBLEM!?
THE ATMOSPHERE!?
YES, IT WAS DEFINITELY THE ATMOSPHERE'S FAULT.
...IT WAS JUST...
...THE ATMOSPHERE WAS ALL WRONG!
SOMEPLACE LESS FORMAL.
LET'S SEE...
LESS, LIM...
ONE MORE TRY!!
IF THE SETTING WERE MORE APPROPRIATE, I COULD EAT!!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "APPROPRIATE"?


WHAT ABOUT THIS ONE?
"LEGG FORMAL"?
THAT'S IT!
THERE'S A FEAST, AND PEOPLE LOOK HAPPY.
SOME-BODY'S EVEN DANCING NAKED.
I'LL BE BACK!
GUE (YAWN)

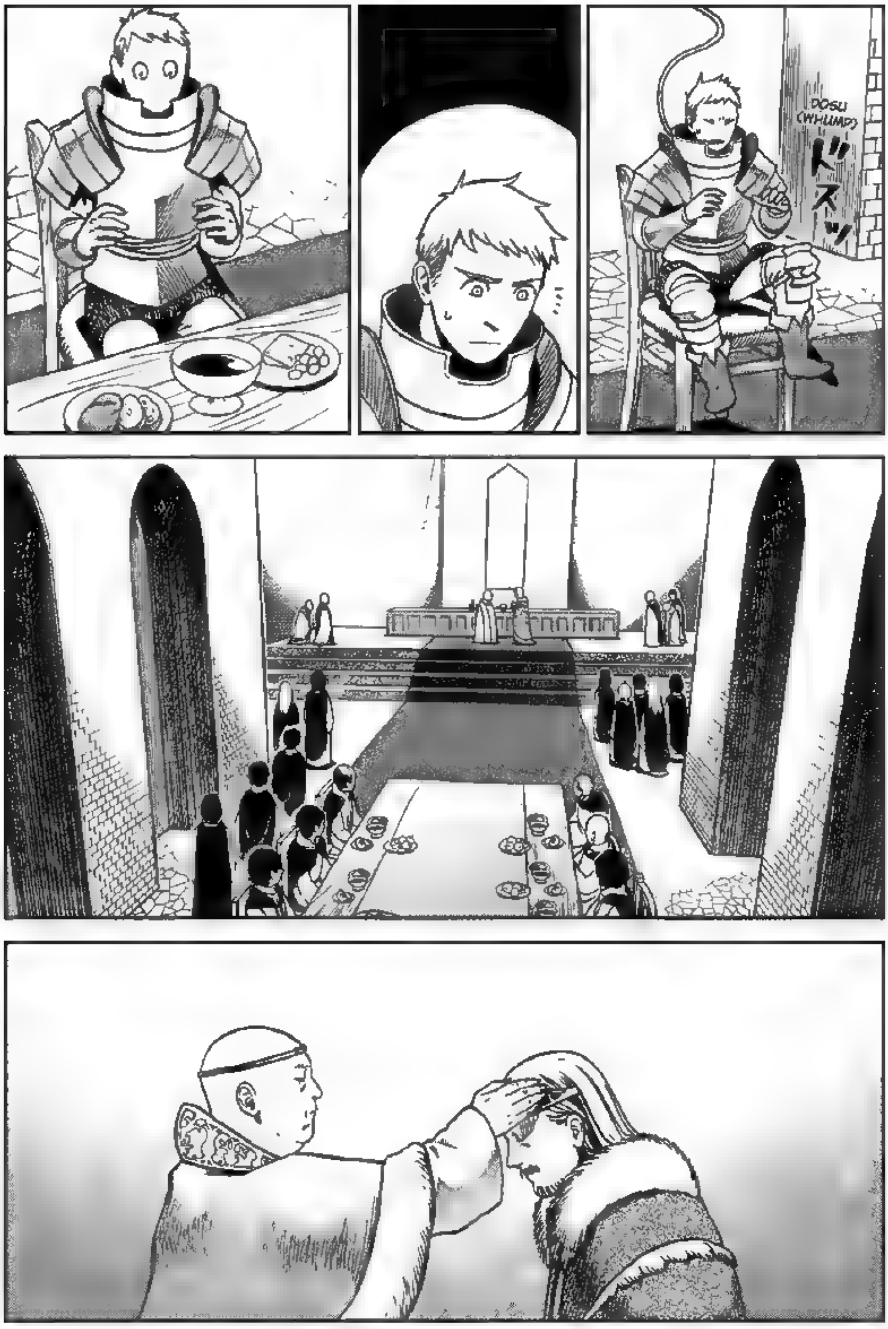

GLUH!
DOSHA (WHUMP)
STOP, STOP.
YOU ARE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE KING! GET DOWN THIS INSTANT!
YOU LOUSY DRUNK!
GOSU (WHUMP)


DELGAL...
BUT, LORD DELGAL ...
THIS IS MY WEDDING DAY.
IS THIS THE GOLDEN CASTLE'S PAST?
THAT BABY?
LET HIM MAKE MERRY IF HE LIKES.
DELGAL!
PHEW. SAVED.
G'WAN, GET!
DON (SHOVE)
OH NO, NO.
SOMEONE BRING ME WINE.
NOT THAT CHEAP STUFF. HAVE THIS INSTEAD.
YOU'VE BECOME SUCH A FINE YOUNG MAN. I'M SO PROUD.
FATHER!


WOO-HOO!
TO THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY.
AAAH...
F-FATHER!
BLUGK!
EEEEK!
WAAA
GARA (RATTLE)
OH MAN...
GARA
GASHAN (CLANG)
FA-THER!
IT'S POI-SON!
GRAB THEM!


DON (BLUMP)
MY KING!
OH. I'M SORRY.
I'LL TAKE THESE BACK WITH ME AND EAT WHERE IT'S LESS CHAOTIC.
WHOA!
IS SHE A JESTER OR SOME-THING?
THAT ELF WAS IN THE OTHER PICTURE TOO.


LOOK! YOU SEE!?
THIS TIME, I BROUGHT FOOD BACK WITH—
YOU CAN'T TAKE IT OUT OF THE PICTURE...
YOU HAVE TO EAT WHEN YOU'RE INSIDE.
THERE'S NOTH-ING...
UH... HUH?
I ABSO-LUTELY HAVE TO KNOW WHAT IT TASTES LIKE NOW!
NEXT ONE!


DOSU
(WHUMP?)
ドスッ


THIS IS... A CORONATION?
DID THAT PRINCE INHERIT THE CROWN?
GUBI (GULP)
グビ
WITH PRAYERS THAT THIS COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE WILL PROSPER FOR ETERNITY...
IT'S GOOD.
ちゃ… CHIEH (SIP)
グビ GUBI
グビ GUBI
KUN (SNIFF)


Pumpkin Soup
Edamame & Whitefish Sauté
Court Cuisine
Full-Course Meal
Fruit
Roast Duck
Golden Wheat Bread
Golden Cow Cheese
YUM...!!
JIIN (SWOOSH)
PAKU (MUNCH)
JAAHA (CRUNCH)
HOT! HOT!
OH. SECONDS, PLEASE.
PAKU
PAKU
GATSU (CHOMP)
GATSU
NUGHA (GRIP)
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT TASTE LIKE PAINT...
...BUT THIS IS A REAL FEAST.

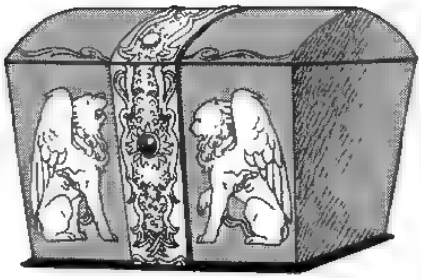

BOY, DID I EAT.
I'M FULL.
WHEW...
URP!
URK!
WELL, I GUESS I'LL HEAD BACK.
SU (SHIP)
WAIT, THIS GIRL IS...


YOU...
...ARE NOT OF THE CASTLE, ARE YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
YOU WERE AT THE PRINCE'S BIRTH AND AT HIS WEDDING.
ZO (SHUDDER)
UH-OH.
H-HURRY ...
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
JI (GIZL)
ARE YOU AFTER THE THRONE?
I'LL TURN YOU TO CINDERS.
AH!
GOO GOOM

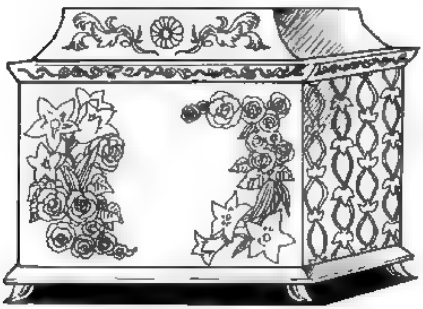

AAAGH
BIG CRUNCH
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
IN THE PICTURE?
PHEW...
THE PICTURE JUST...!
BIG CRUNCH
PETA (PAT)
PETA

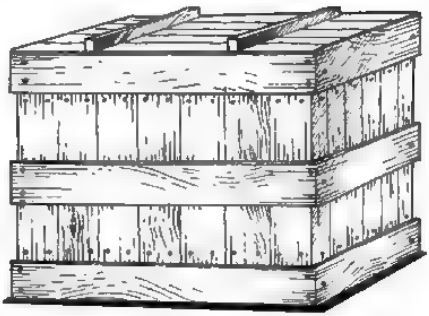

...GRABBED MY COLLAR...
...THEY FOUND OUT I WASN'T ONE OF THEM...
I ATE TILL I WAS FULL, AND JUST AS I WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE...
THERE WAS LOTS OF EXCELLENT FOOD.
WELL, OF COURSE THEY GOT MAD!
...AND GOT REALLY, REALLY MAD AT ME.
THAT WAS SCARY...
SFX: GURURURURU (GRUMBLE)
IT WAS JUST PIE IN A PICTURE!
THERE, YOU SEE!?
I ATE ALL THAT, AND IT DIDN'T STAY WITH ME!?
GIVE BACK ALL THAT TIME!
CHAPTER 12 THE END
NOW THAT THE DANGER'S PASSED, I'M HUNGRY AGAIN.
UH...
HUH?
ぐぅぅぅ...



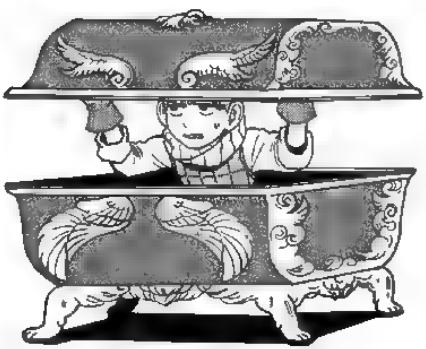


## 13. Boiled in Salt Water









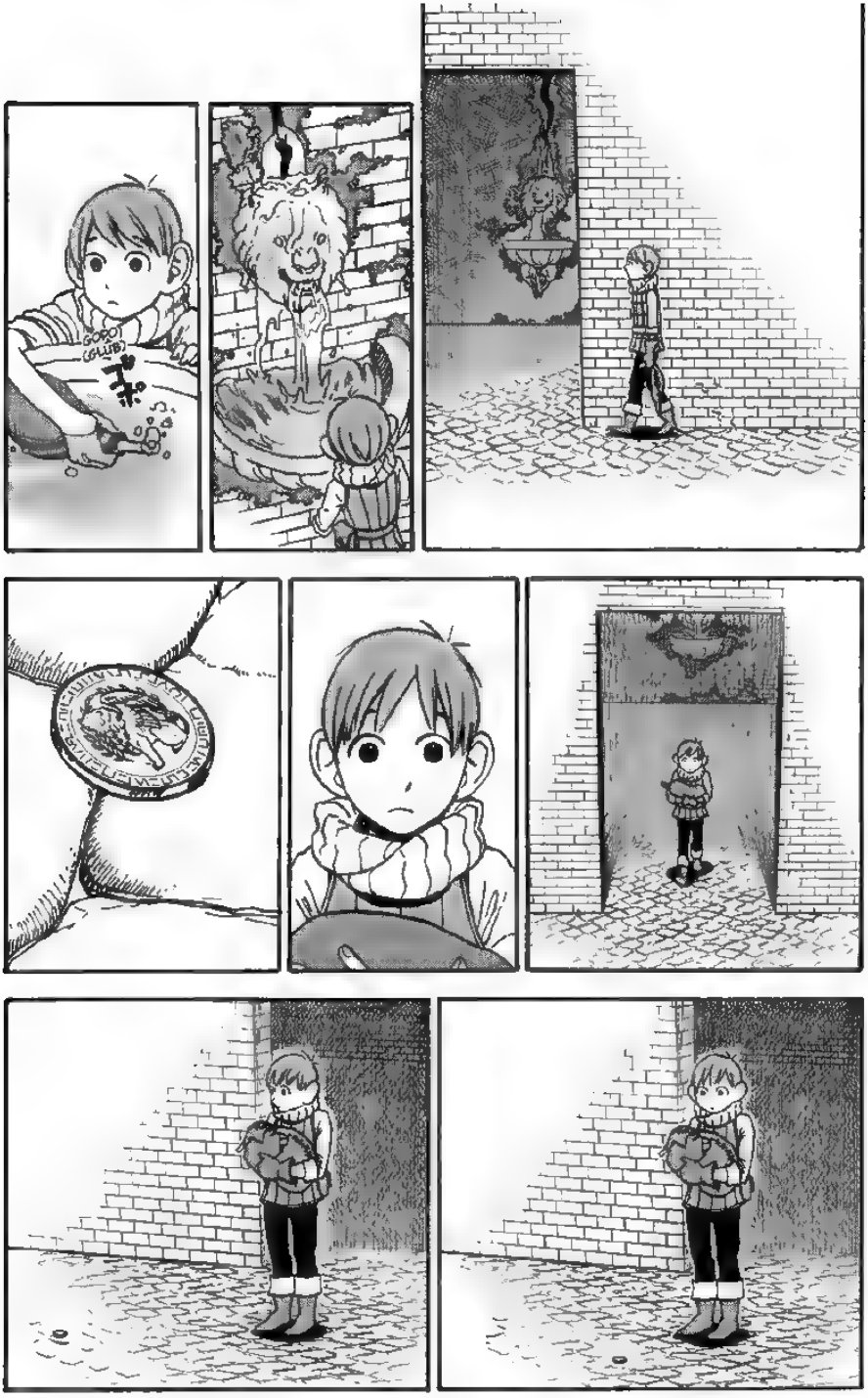

WE CAN GET WATER FROM THE ROOM NEXT DOOR.
THIS LOOKS LIKE A GOOD PLACE TO REST.
THIS IS...A KITCHEN, HM?
.....
HM?
SHUN
WE'D BE ON THE FOURTH FLOOR BY NOW F YOU HADN'T PLAYED WITH THE PICTURES.
ISN'T THAT...
...A MIMIC?


IT'S JUST THE SORT OF PLACE THOSE BASTARDS WOULD LIKE.
NOT TOO OBVIOUS. NOT TOO HIDDEN.
A SPOT WHERE IT CASUALLY ATTRACTS ATTENTION.
THAT BOX WASN'T THERE BEFORE.
OKAAAY.
LET'S SLEEP HERE TODAY.
IS THAT ALL RIGHT, CHIL-CHUCK?
HM? YEAH...
M/M/CG!
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE THOSE THINGS PUT ME THROUGH HELL!?
YE
WHY DID YOU TELL THEM!?
SSSSSS!
SENSHI AND LAIOS OBVIOUSLY WOULD WANT TO EAT IT...
...AND THEN OPENING THE BOX WOULD BE MY JOB.
I GUESS I WON'T MENTION IT.


CHILCHUCK, JUST STARTING OUT
PAKA (POP)
GREAT! NO TRAPS, AND IT'S NOT LOCKED!
POSU (SHUNK)
GATA
AH!
AAAAH! AAAAH!
GATA
GATA (CLATTER)
GUN (CLANK)
THIS ONE WAS LOCKED, SO IT'S NOT A MIMIC.
PAKA
DAMN MIMICS ...
THAT ONE WASN'T EVEN ME
OH CRUD! I FORGOT TO CHECK FOR TRAPS—
SHUUU (HISS)
HEE HEE HEE!
IT CAN'T DO ANYTHING IF I OPEN IT FROM BEHIND.


ARE YOU OKAY?
HUH?
.....
I BET HE'S TIRED. HE'S STILL A KID.
DON'T PUT HIM ON WATCH TONIGHT. JUST LET HIM SLEEP.
I TOLD YOU, I'M NOT A KID.
YOU'RE SPACING OUT.
SOME-THING ON YOUR MIND?
NO, NOT REALLY.
THAT'S GOING TO BITE YOU IN THE REAR SOMEDAY.
YEAH, YEAH.
HE WON'T TELL US HIS BIRTHDAY OR WHERE HE'S FROM EITHER.
I LIKE TO KEEP MY WORK AND PRIVATE LIVES SEPA-RATE.
THERE HE GOES AGAIN.
YOU'RE ALWAYS LIKE THAT, CHIL-CHUCK.
THEN HOW OLD ARE YOU?
I DON'T WANT TO SAY.


WATER...
I'M GETTING WORSE AT GOING HUNGRY.
I USED TO BE FINE WITH NOT EATING FOR TWO DAYS.
GULL
GUL (GURGLE)
GUESS I'LL GO FILL IT UP NEXT DOOR.
HEY, DIMWIT.
ZURU (DRAG)
KARA (EMPTY)
S'DANGEROUS...
MMH..
IT'S RIGHT NEXT DOOR.
NN... I GO WIF...
NO NEED. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
GUH?
I'M GOING TO GET SOME WATER.


GOGO!
(GLUB)


MAYBE THERE'S A NEST AROUND HERE.
IT'S A COIN BUG.
IF I FIND A FEW MORE, THEY MIGHT MAKE A GOOD SNACK.
MOST OF ALL, IT'S COOL THAT THEY LOOK EXACTLY LIKE REAL COINS.
JYARA (JINGLE)
OW.
BACHI (WHAP)
THEY'RE NOT AS DANGEROUS AS OTHER TREASURE INSECTS.
I'M NOT LAIOS, BUT I DO KINDA LIKE COIN BUGS.
THEY USE CAMOUFLAGE, LIKE MIMICS, BUT THEY'RE CUTE.
GAKO (CLUNK)
HOLD IT, THAT'S WHERE THE MIMIC—
GU. (GRUNT)
HEY!


YOU...
THE DEVICE TO OPEN IT MUST BE CLOSE...
...BUT NOT WITHIN REACH, I GUESS.
DID YOU SERIOUSLY FORGET THE BAG MADE YOU HEAVIER!?
...COMPLETE IDIOT.
!!!...
MAYBE !?
NO, PROBABLY NOT. I CAN'T COUNT ON THAT.
MARCILLE WILL NOTICE IF I DON'T COME BACK.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
SHOULD I CALL FOR HELP?
NO, IT MIGHT DRAW MORE MONSTERS. I'D PUT THE OTHERS IN DANGER.


THIS IS YOUR JOB, REMEMBER!?
DON'T PANIC!
OPENING CLOSED DOORS!
HOOOH..
I DON'T HEAR ANY MACHINERY MOVING, SO THERE'S NO TIME LIMIT.
THE MIMIC WON'T ATTACK ME UNLESS I TOUCH IT.
THIS SORT OF DOOR OPENS WHEN YOU RELEASE THE MECHANISM.
...A DEVICE THAT PROBABLY THROWS SPEARS.
ZURI (SCRAPE)
DO THEY LAUNCH IF YOU PUSH THE SWITCHES OUT OF ORDER?
SEVERAL SWITCHES IN THE WALL, AND...


THE TEXT ON THIS PLAQUE MUST BE THE KEY...
CHIRA (GLANCE)
AND THEN...
PLAQUE
BUTTONS
MIMIC
NO IDEA. LET'S REVIEW.
THERE ARE THREE SWITCHES IN THE CORNERS OF THE ROOM.
WHY THREE?
I HAVE TO PRESS THEM IN A CERTAIN ORDER.
STILL, I THINK I'VE SEEN THAT BEFORE...
...?
THE ANCIENT TONGUE!? C'MON, I CAN'T READ THAT!
DAMN IT! IF MARCILLE WERE HERE...


GRRR!
THERE'S A SWITCH BEHIND THE MIMIC TOO!
DAMN IT! MUST YOU ALWAYS GET IN MY WAY!?
HOLD IT.
IF I PRESS THEM AT RANDOM, I'LL GET SKEWERED.
WITH MY BUILD, COULD I SLIP BETWEEN...? NO, THAT WOULD BE RISKY.
MAYBE THERE'S SOME SORT OF HINT IN THE ROOM?
NO, I GUESS IT WOULDN'T BE THAT EASY.
HAH...
MAYBE I SHOULD JUST SIT TIGHT UNTIL MORNING.
ARGH! I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT TO DO.
DOSU (WHUMP)
UMM...
HMM...


スゥ…
IN

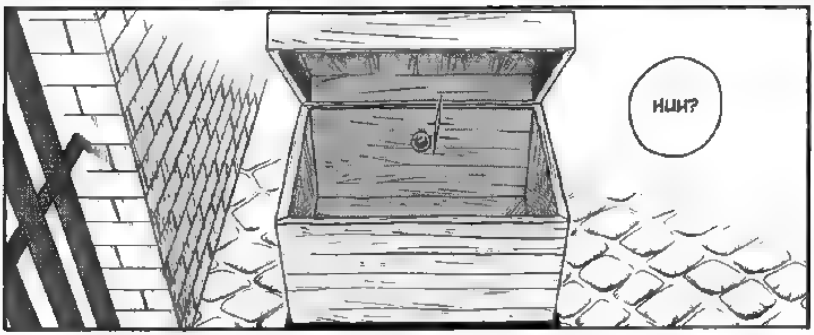

IN THIS ONE!?
OH N—
KABOOM

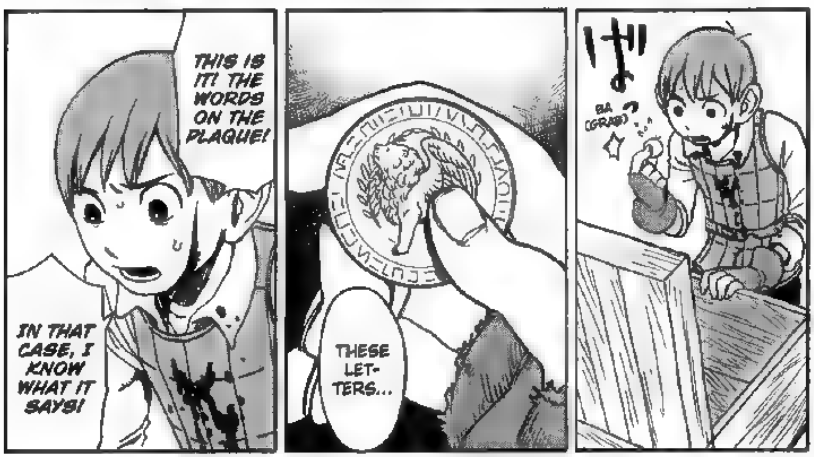

S-SAVED...
OWW...
BEGHA (SPLAT)
GWEH!
SUSUSU (SHFFFT)
SUTON (THUNK)
GAZA (SKITTER)
ZA
ZA
ZA
GEEZ, YOU'RE TOUGH!!
IF YOU TIP MINIOS OVER, THEY KICK THEIR LEGS. IT'S CUTE.
TIP THEM OVER, AND YOU CAN TELL WHETHER THEY'RE MALE OR FEMALE.
HEH HEH HEH...
LAIOS'S STUPID TRIVIA IS FLASHING THROUGH MY HEAD.


DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO (THUDD)
TIP IT OVER!?
THAT THING!? I CAN'T!
DO (WHAM)
AGH! FINE!
カチリ
KACHIRI (CLICK)
I'LL RISK IT!
BAN (BAM)
BAN (BAM)


GARIRI (SCRAPE)
OWI
BATAN (SLAM)
ZUDON (BOOM)
HAAH...
HAAH...


HM?
DOKI (BADUMP)
YORO (TOTTER)
OWWW...
MAYBE SOMEONE HEARD THAT AND WILL COME TO HELP.
DAMN IT. DON'T MESS WITH ME...
BAKAN (CLUNK)
WHAT, THIS ONE'S EMPTY!?


HUH?


THIS IS IT! THE WORDS ON THE PLAQUE!
IN THAT CASE, I KNOW WHAT IT SAYS!
THESE LET-TERS...
BA (GRAB)


GARI (SCRIT)
GARI
ZU (SHIFT)
GUGU (STRAIN)
"...OR THE MOON SETS..."
KACHI
KACHI (CLICK)
"NO MATTER HOW OFTEN THE SUN RISES...
EAST!
WEST!
HURRY!
PA (CAST)
NORTH!
KAKO (CLUNK)
"...LIKE THE FIXED STAR..."

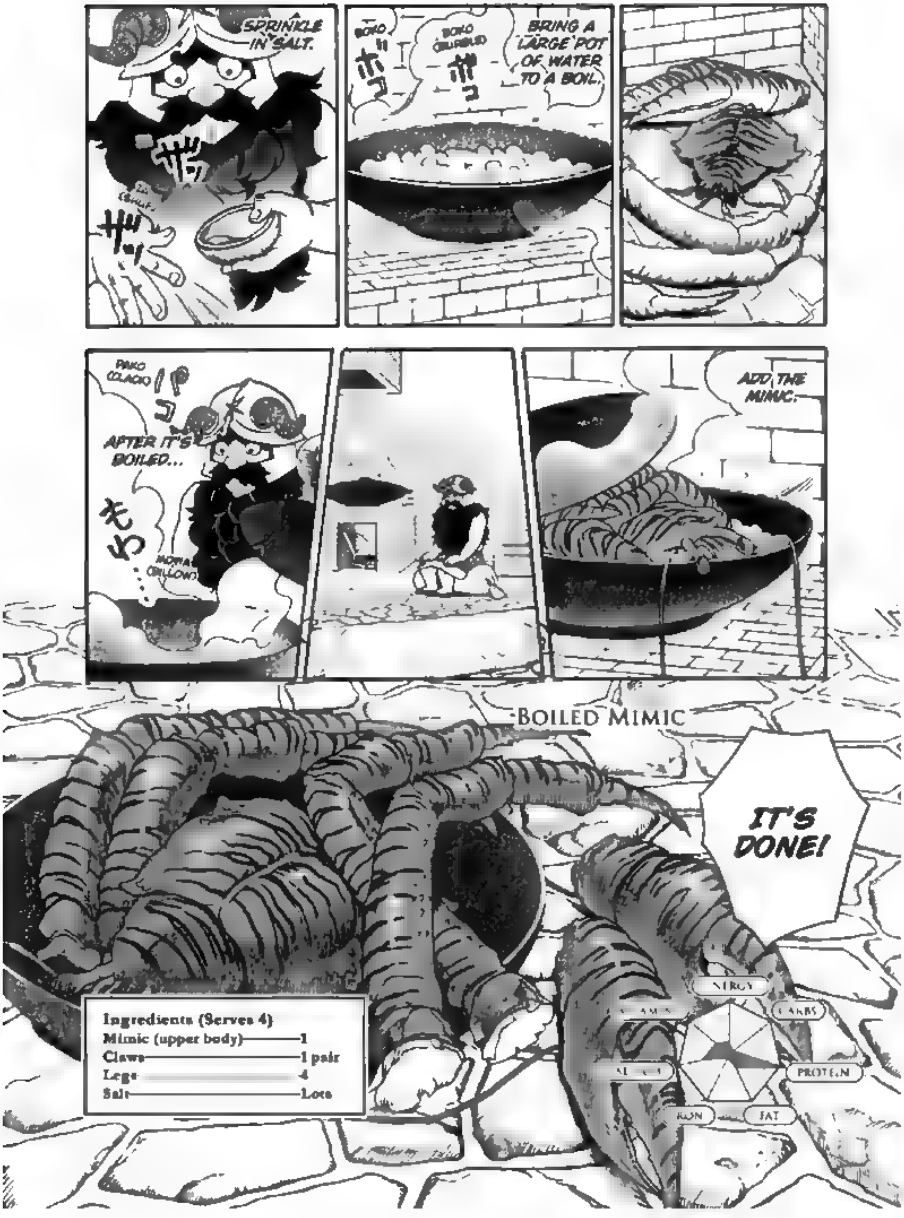

DON (WHUD)
"...MAY THE WINDS OF GOOD FORTUNE BE ETERNAL!"
ZA (SKITTER)
WAAAGH!
SOUTH!
SOUTH!
KANKON (CLUNK)
SOUTH!


GOGO (RMBL)
IT'S OPEN!
ZA
ZYON (HOP)
YEEEEEK!!
ガラ
GAKO (CLUNK)


AH
I TOLD YOU, CHILCHUCK HASN'T COME BACK!
CH... CHIL-CHUCK!
CHIL-CHUCK, YOU DID THIS?
WELL DONE!
THIS IS...
I'M SORRY! I'M SO SORRY!
I'M ALIVE...
OWL OWL OWL
YOU'RE WELCOME.




SFX: CHIKU (STITCH) CHIKU


SPRINKLE IN SALT.
BOIL
BOILED
BRING A LARGE POT OF WATER TO A BOIL.
PAKO
CLACK!
AFTER IT'S BOILED...
ADD THE MIMIC.
BOILED MIMIC
IT'S DONE!
Ingredients (Serves 4)
Mimic (upper body)——1
Claws——1 pair
Legs——4
Salt——Lots
NTROY
CARBS
PROTEIN
FAT


TRY US NG THE HANDLE.
NO GOOD. IT PUSHES IT FAR-THER IN.
RGH.
I CAN'T SCRAPE THE MEAT OUT.
HMM...
YOUR LOCK-PICKS!
ガーン
GAAAH (SHOCK)
WHAT TH.NGS?
YOU KNOW. THE THINGS YOU ALWAYS CARRY AROUND.
AH-HA.
CHIL-CHUCK, LEND ME THOSE THINGS.
NO! STOP!
WE'LL STERILIZE THEM IN HOT WATER. IT'LL BE FINE.
THAT'S NOT THE PROB-LEM!
D—
DON'T BE AN IDIOT!!
NO!! ABSO-LUTELY NOT!! DON'T YOU DARE!!


PAKU (CHOMP)
HERE, CHILCHUCK.
HOJI (TWIST)
COMES OUT EASILY.
YEAH, THIS IS REALLY, REALLY GOOD.
IT'S SO SPRINGY.
THE MORE YOU CHEW IT, THE BETTER THE FLAVOR GETS.
IT TASTES FANTASTIC.
.....
PAN (CLAP)
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US ABOUT THE MIMIC?
I HAVE HEARD THE MIDGUT GLAND ON HERMIT CRABS TASTES BAD.
...AND YOU'D BE WRONG.
I BET IF YOU ATE THE BODY AND LEG MEAT TOGETHER, IT WOULD BE GOOD.


I'VE HAD ZERO GOOD EXPERIENCES WITH MIMICS.
I'D RATHER JUST NOT MESS WITH THEM.
ANYWAY, MY JUDGMENT'S GOTTEN DULL.
I THOUGHT IT WAS GOING TO EAT A TREASURE INSECT, AND I PANICKED.
MIMICS DON'T EAT TREASURE INSECTS.
HUH?
IT'S THE OPPOSITE— TREASURE INSECTS EAT MIMICS.
WHEN THEY FIND A MIMIC, THEY LAY EGGS THROUGH A CRACK IN THE CHEST.
WHEN THE EGGS HATCH, THE LARVA EAT THE MIMIC AS THEY GROW.
WHEN THEY'RE ADULTS, PEOPLE MISTAKE THEM FOR TREASURE ...
...AND THEY DEPART FOR NEW LANDS THAT WAY.
ARGH. SERIOUSLY?
THERE, THERE.
POOR THING. THAT MUST'VE BEEN REALLY SCARY.
I TOLD YOU, KNOCK IT OFF!
BASH! SMACK!
WELL, YOU WON'T TELL ME HOW OLD YOU ARE.
AND KEEPING SECRETS FROM US LED TO TROUBLE, DIDN'T IT?
TELL ME HOW OLD YOU ARE.
RGH...

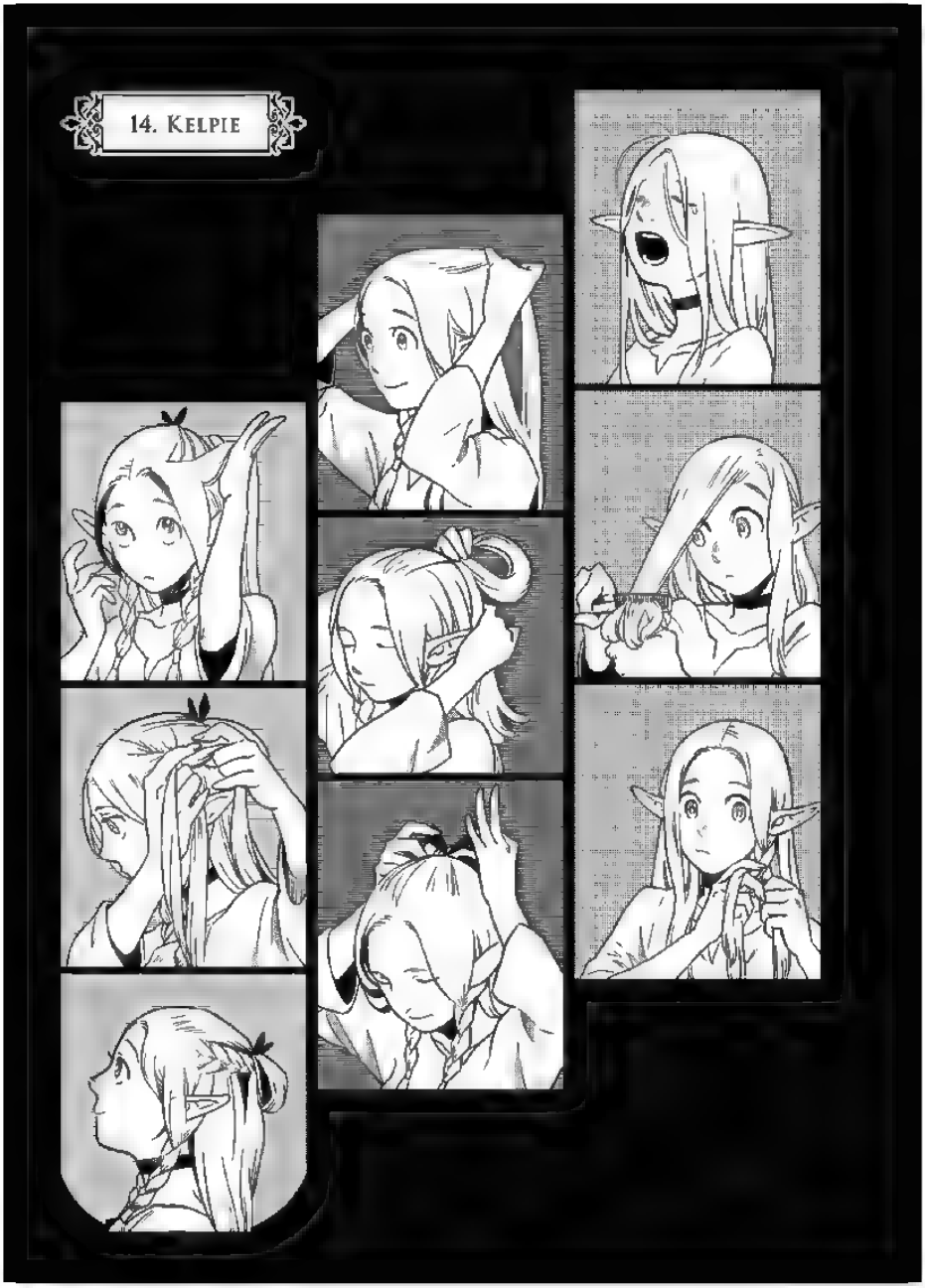






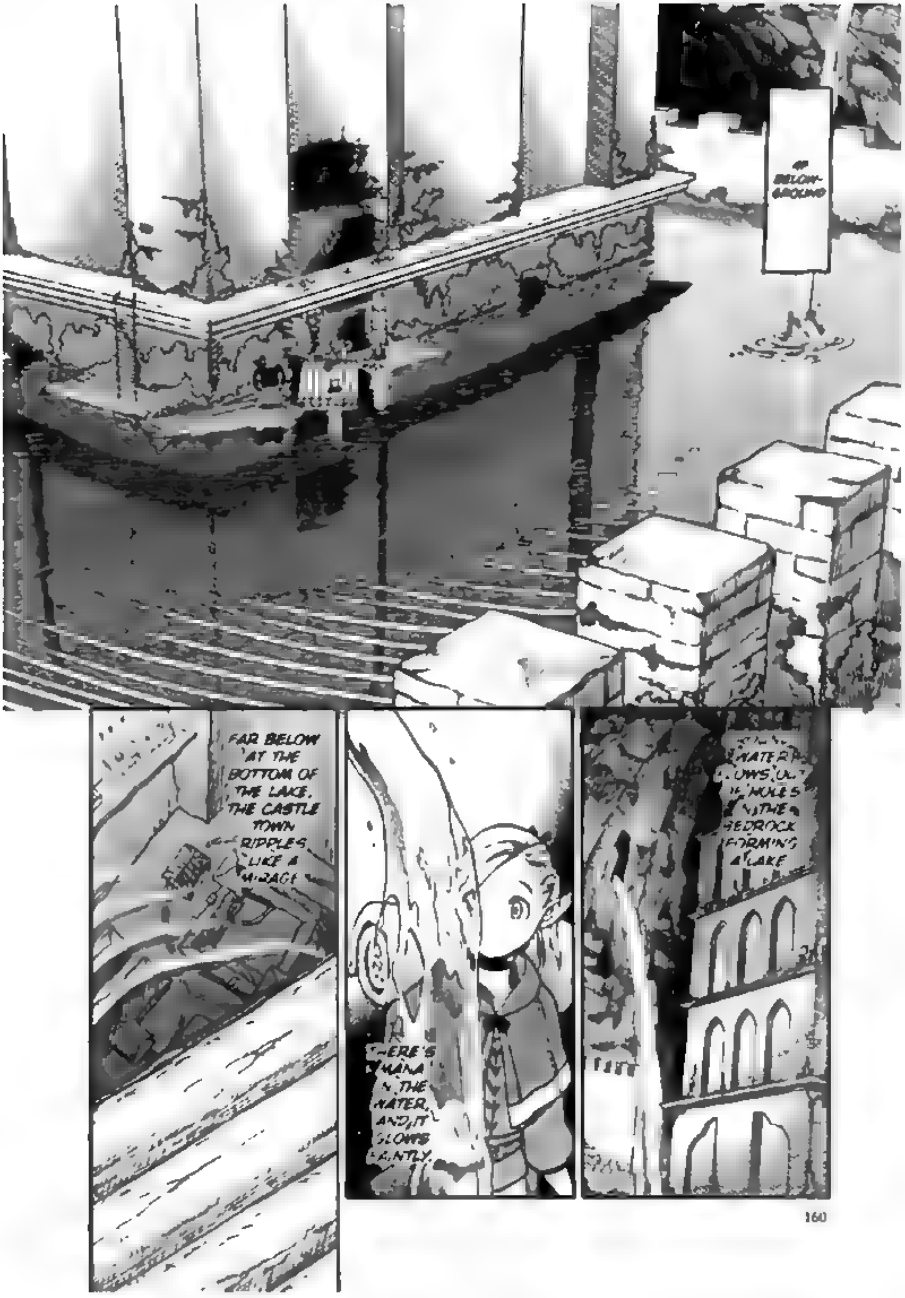


Chapter 13 The End


14. Kelpie


ZORI (SCRIT)
JYAKO
JYAKO (SCRUB)
GOSH (WIPE)
GOSH
SHAVE IT OFF. YOU'LL FEEL GREAT.
HERE'S A TIP.
WOULD YOU QUIT BEING MEAN?
PWAH!
AAAH...
I HOPE I HAVE THE CHANCE TO WASH MY HAIR SOON.
WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU WASHED IT?
I'VE BEEN WONDERING FOR A WHILE NOW.
LET'S WASH IT! LET'S WASH IT RIGHT NOW!!
YOU WANT TO WASH YOUR BEARD TOO, RIGHT, SENSHI?


WITH YOUR WHISKERS IN THAT STATE, MY SUPPORT MIGHT NOT WORK.
THAT'S FINE WITH ME.
HAIR IS IMPORTANT IN MAGIC TOO.
TAKING CARE OF IT IS LIKE A WARM-UP EXERCISE.
I KNOW! I HAVE SOME GOOD SOAP.
LET'S WASH YOUR BEARD WITH THAT, AND I'LL BRAID IT FOR YOU!
HM?
HUH?
AH!
OH, OF COURSE! BACK THEN...
THAT WAS EXPENSIVE!
NOOO!
SHALL WE GO?


AT BELOW-GROUND
FAR BELOW AT THE BOTTOM OF THE LAKE, THE CASTLE TOWN RIPPLES LIKE A MIRAGE.
HERE'S MANA IN THE WATER, AND IT FLOWS GENTLY.
WATER FLOWS OUT THROUGH HOLES IN THE BEDROCK, FORMING A LAKE.


HOW DO YOU GO PAST THIS POINT?
FU FU FU...
I FISH AROUND HERE...
SET TRAPS...
THAT'S ABOUT IT.
HOW DO YOU NORMALLY EXPLORE THE FOURTH FLOOR, SENSHI?
TON (TAP)
TON
YOU TAKE THIS, LIKE SO, AND...
KURURI (TWIRL)
HM!?
NATU-RALLY...
...THAT'S WHERE MAGIC COMES IN!
NUH...
NUH...
"NUH"?
YOU JUST WALK ACROSS THE WATER.
SEE?
PRETTY NEAT, HUH?
PYON (HOP)
BUWA (SPLISH)


YOU DON'T HAVE TO FUSS THAT MUCH.
NO!
NO!
MY, THAT'S UNSIGHTLY.
NOOOOOOO!


IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO CROSS THE WATER WEARING ARMOR.
BOATS ARE DANGEROUS.
HUH!? THAT'S INHUMANE...
BA CLUNGG
CAST THE SPELL WHILE I HOLD HIM DOWN!
LET'S TIE HIM UP AND PULL HIM ALONG.
THIS ISN'T GONNA WORK.
PHWIN (SFTTF?)


SEE? THAT WASN'T SO BAD, WAS IT?
Y—
YOU ...!
GYAAAAA
BIGHI CHUAGG—
TAKE THAT!
PEOPLE SO EASILY FALL TO THE PRIMROSE PATH.
IT ONLY TAKES A MOMENT TO RUST, BUT REPOLISHING TAKES A LONG, LONG—


I DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT.
YOU PEOPLE ARE TOO CARELESS WITH SPELLS.
I DON'T GET IT. WHY DO YOU HATE MAGIC SO MUCH?
IT'S NOT AS IF THERE'S NO WORK INVOLVED IN CASTING MAGIC.
DWAH!
WELL, WHAT'S DONE IS DONE.
YOU NEVER KNOW. YOU MIGHT LIKE IT.

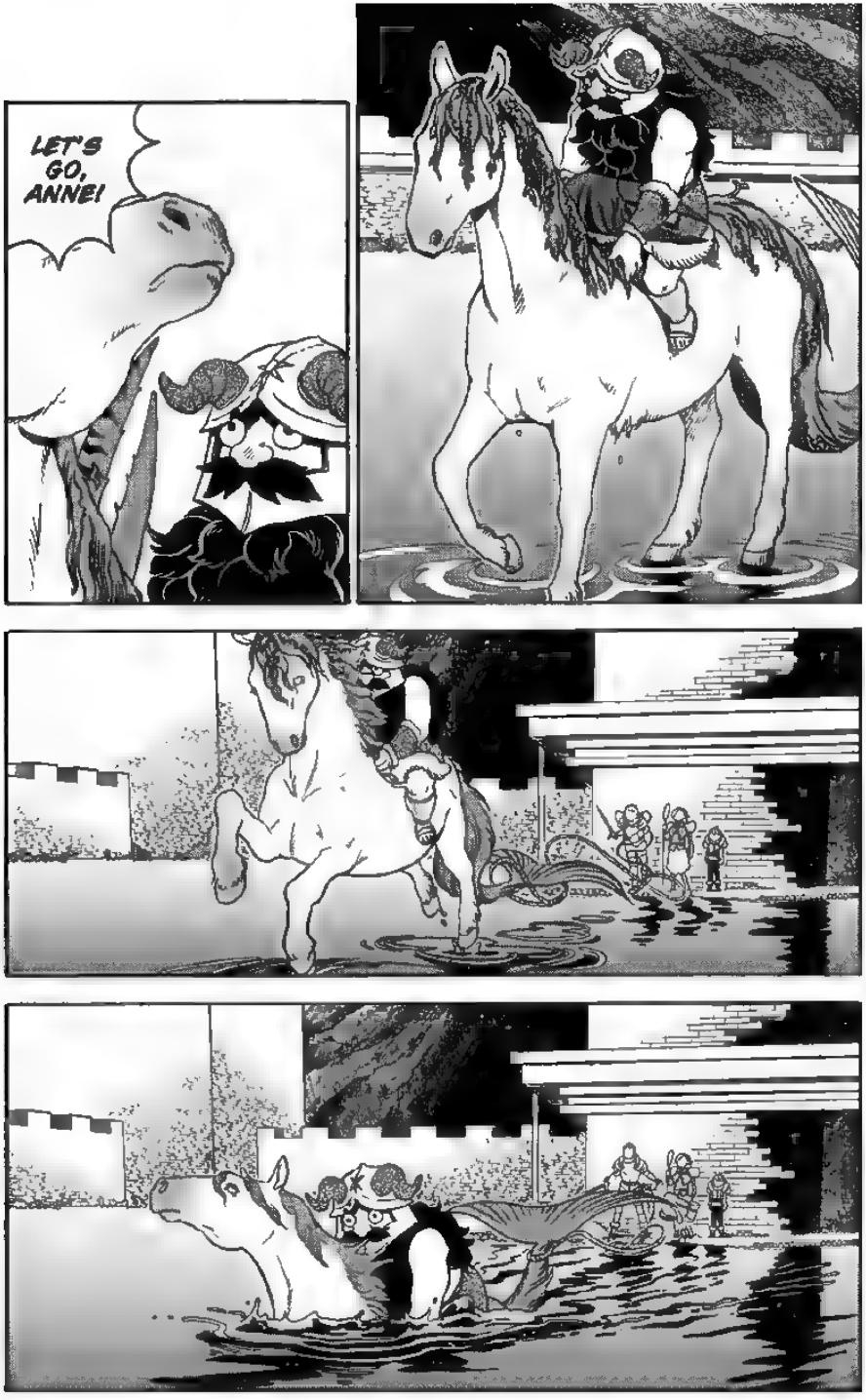

IS IT THIS!?
GEH! WHAT IS THIS? INSULATION!?
WHY ISN'T IT WORKING PROPERLY!?
WHAT!?
SFX: ZAZAZA (SCUTTLE)
NO NEED.
SU・CSHP
IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN JUST WATER TO—
EEK!
IT'S CAKED WITH FAT AND BLOOD FROM ALL SORTS OF MONSTERS.
RINSE IT OUT! HURRY !!
HUH!?
I'LL GET ACROSS THE WATER MY WAY.


SFX: WAKU (GIDDY) WAKU
YOU MAKE NO GENSE.
WHY THE COMPLETE TRUST?
LIKE USING A MONSTER TO MAKE A BOAT.
NO, I'M SURE HE HAS SOME FANTASTIC IDEA.
YOU'LL GO UNDER INSTANTLY.
...YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE A BOAT?
A MIMIC SHELL?
SHH.
SU (SWIP)
JUST WATCH.


A KELPIE!
LOOK OUT! GET BACK!
SHE COMES FOR THE FISH GUTS AND BONES I SCATTER.
"ANNE."
SHE'S DOCILE.
ANNE ALWAYS COMES TO VISIT ME WHEN I'M FISHING.
IT'S FINE. SHE'S HARMLESS.
RORI CHUUCHUU
CUTE...
OOH!
IT'S AN OMNIV-OROUS MONSTER.
SHE EATS FISH? HUH!


HUH!?
I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED WHETHER I COULD CROSS THE LAKE WITH HER.
LE ADVENTURE
TH-TH-THAT WOULD BE...
...ABSOLUTELY SPLENDID!!
MAYBE I COULD USE A MIMIC SHELL...
...AND GUIDE HER THAT WAY.
YOU'RE AWFUL.
WHAT A THING TO SAY!!
I'M AGAINST IT.
I THINK MAKING A LIFE PRESERVER WITH ITS ORGANS WOULD BE MORE USEFUL.


KELPIES MAKE PEOPLE CARELESS, THEN PULL THEM INTO THE WATER.
WAAAGH!
SPLASH
PEOPLE CAN NEVER KNOW WHAT MONSTERS ARE REALLY THINKING.
MONSTERS ARE DANGEROUS.
ESPECIALLY THE CHARMING ONES.
LIVING THINGS TAKE THE BEST SHAPE TO ACHIEVE WHAT THEY NEED.
I MEAN, HE DIDN'T WANT ME GROWING MAN-EATING PLANTS.
WHY IS EVERYONE SO SOFT ON MAMMALS?
UH...
DO YOU REALLY NOT KNOW WHY?
I'VE KNOWN ANNE AS LONG AS THE GOLEMS.
I KNOW HER A LOT BETTER THAN I KNOW YOU.


LET'S GO, ANNE!


SENSHI!!!!
A-ANNE...


MAR-
CILLE!
ANNE,
STOP!


LAIOS!
GAHAA (GROAAR)
GHK...
FORGIVE ME, ANNE.


NO WAY!
NO! NO!
BWAH!


SEE? LIKE THAT.
PHEW.
HAFF.
HAFF.
PTOOO!
SO SHE WAS WAITING FOR ME TO GET ON HER BACK?
SHE COULD HAVE ATTACKED ME ANY-TIME, SO WHY...?
I DON'T GET IT.
I JUST DON'T GET IT.
WHO KNOWS.
BETTER ODDS, MAYBE?
I DON'T REALLY UNDER-STAND HOW MONSTERS THINK.


SUKU (STAND)
HM... YOU MUST BE COLD.
I'LL START A FIRE.
WANT ME TO HELP?
YOU'RE EATING HER!? BUT YOU LOVED HER SO MUCH!!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU!
WHY...?
GRK!
GRIP
I'M DOING THIS ALONE.
NO.


WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?
COULD I HAVE A LITTLE OF THE FAT?
...UM.
GARI
GARI (SCRITCH)


ADD THE OIL, OLIVE OIL, AND FILTERED LYE A LITTLE AT A TIME AND STIR.
COLLECT WOOD ASHES AND MIX THEM WITH WATER.
HEAT THE FAT AND EXTRACT THE OIL.
...POUR IT INTO A MOLD AND LET IT COOL.
A MOLD.
HAH!
ONCE THE LIQUID LEAVES TRACKS WHEN YOU DRIZZLE IT...
SOME-THING YOU MAY NOT LIKE...
WHAT'S THIS?
IF YOU'RE THROWING THAT SHELL AWAY, LET ME HAVE IT.


KELPIE OIL SOAP
ALL RIGHT.
THAT SHOULD DO IT!
FINISHED IMAGE
Ingredients
Kelpie fat——300 ml
Olive oil——300 ml
Plant and wood ash——150 mg
Water——150 ml
KELPIE FAT IS A PRIZED HAIR OIL.
YOU CAN USE IT TO WASH CLOTHES AND DISHES TOO, SO...
HERE, SENSHI. THIS IS FOR YOU.
WELL, TO REALLY FINISH IT...
...IT OUGHT TO CURE FOR MONTHS OR EVEN YEARS, BUT...
.....!
OKAY!
YOU WORKED HARD TO MAKE IT, DIDN'T YOU?
I WANT TO USE IT.
CAN I USE IT NOW?
HM...
IT'S STILL SAPONIFYING, SO I'M NOT SURE.


TERO (DRIBBLE)
BASHA (SPLASH)
SAPU (SPLISH)
WASHI
WASHI
WASHI
WASH (SMUFFLE)
WITH YOUR SKILL, YOU CAN DO IT!
TRY HARD, MARCILLE.
MY SKILL HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!
I KNEW IT! IT ISN'T FOAMING AT ALL!
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S THE SOAP OR YOUR HAIR, BUT...!


I-IS IT GOING TO STAY LIKE THAT? IT'LL GO BACK, RIGHT?
...AND DRY IT!
WE'LL COMB OUT YOUR HAIR...
NOW SIT IN FRONT OF THE FIRE.
FUWA (FLUFF)
FUWA


HJFF...
HJFF...
S-WA
GORUTH GAUUP
IF THIS DOESN'T WORK NOW, I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'LL DO.


OH GOOD!
NOW WE'LL BE ABLE TO GO ON TOGETHER.
I SEE...
DOING THIS HAS SHOWN ME ONE THING.
THE PARTY HAD LISED UP THE BETTER PART OF A DAY HERE.
THE SOAP STINGS MY EYES.
THEIR JOURNEY THROUGH THE FOURTH BELOW-GROUND FLOOR HAD JUST BEGUN.
CHAPTER 4 TEN
THANK YOU, MARCILLE.
...UH-HUH.
WALKING ON WATER FEELS PRETTY NICE.

# TRANSLATION NOTES

**Page 16**
The golems' names in Japanese—Tarou, Jirou, and Saburou—are very generic names for a family's first, second, and third sons, respectively. *Rou* is a common suffix for male names, while *ta* means "thick" or "big," *ji* means "next" or "second," and *saburo* means "third."

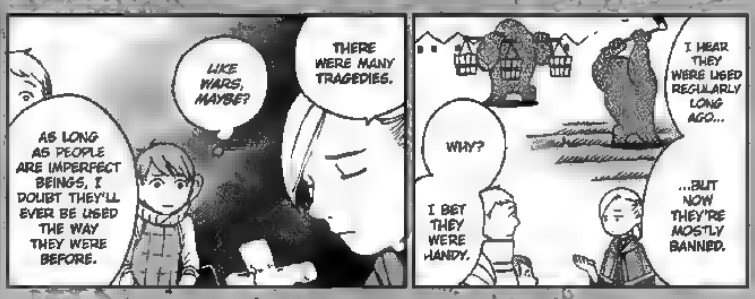
**Page 78**
Laios names his sword Kensuke, where *ken* is the Japanese word for "sword" and *-suke* is a common suffix for boys' names.

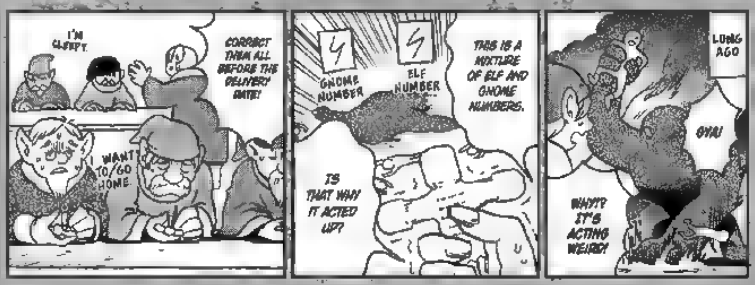
**Page 109**
In Japanese, Laios's comrades admonish him with the phrase *e ni kaita mochi*, literally, "a rice cake in a picture." Similar to the English phrases "castle in the air" or "pie in the sky," the phrase refers to something that sounds nice but isn't realistic.

*To be continued...*


MISCELLANEOUS
MONSTER TALES
2


THEY'RE VERY LOYAL MAGICAL CREATURES THAT FOLLOW ORDERS EXACTLY.
"HELLO!"
SHAPE
SIZE.
BEHAV-IORS.
ALL THEIR INFORMATION IS PACKED INTO THESE CORES.
GOLEMS


AS LONG AS PEOPLE ARE IMPERFECT BEINGS, I DOUBT THEY'LL EVER BE USED THE WAY THEY WERE BEFORE.
LIKE WARS, MAYBE?
THERE WERE MANY TRAGEDIES.
WHY?
I BET THEY WERE HANDY.
I HEAR THEY WERE USED REGULARLY LONG AGO...
...BUT NOW THEY'RE MOSTLY BANNED.


I'M SLEEPY.
I WANT TO GO HOME
CORRECT THEM ALL BEFORE THE DELIVERY DATE!
GNOME NUMBER
ELF NUMBER
THIS IS A MIXTURE OF ELF AND GNOME NUMBERS.
IS THAT WHY IT ACTED UP?
LONG AGO
GYA!
WHY!? IT'S ACTING WEIRD!


...MY WIFE.
...MY WIFE AND...
THAT'S ...MY WIFE AND...
HEY.
ORCS
OSHITI-TION
I CAN TELL BY LOOKING AT YOUR WIVES.
OH?
I DON'T THINK OUR STANDARDS ARE THAT DIFFERENT.
HMM ...
DO THEY LOOK UGLY TO YOU?
I HEAR OUR IDEAS OF BEAUTY ARE PRETTY DIFFERENT.
THEIR BEHINDS ARE SHAPELY ...
THEIR BOSOMS ARE AMPLE.
THEIR TEETH ARE NEAT, AND THEIR LIPS SEEM SOFT.
THEIR EYES ARE LARGE.
THEY ALL HAVE WELL-FORMED NOSES.
HUH?
WHAT?
SCARY ...
YES, NOTHING BEATS LONG EARS.
THAT SAID, WE REALLY LIKE ELVES' LONG EARS, YOU KNOW?
WE COULD EASILY GO FOR—


WHEN THEY'RE YOUNG, THEY'RE THIS BIG.
THEY HIDE IN ALL SORTS OF THINGS.
SO THEY HIDE IN THINGS OTHER THAN TREASURE CHESTS.
MIMICS
BONES...
URNS.
DISHES.
JARS.
BOTE (PLOP)
ZU (DRAG)
I GUESS THEY'RE DESPERATE TOO.
KOTO (THUD)
OVER THERE!
YAAAH!


ALL THOSE JEWELS WERE PROBABLY WORTH A FORTUNE.
WHAT A WASTE
AWW..
TREASURE
INSECTS
THEY PAY GOLD FOR INDIVIDUALS IN GOOD CONDITION.
TREASURE INSECT SPECIMENS ARE POPULAR WITH COLLECTORS.
BUGS AREN'T WORTH ONE RED CENT.
THESE ARE PRETTIER THAN JEWELS.
50,000
20,000
17,000
3
7,000
SAY THAT SOONER!


...BUT WHEN THE BONES CRUMBLE, IT WANDERS AS A GHOST AGAIN.
EVEN AFTER THE FLESH ROTS AWAY AND ONLY BONES REMAIN, IT KEEPS MOVING...
G'WAN, GET OUT!
WHEN THEY FIND A LIVING PERSON, THEY POSSESS THEM AND STEAL THEIR BODY.
THE BODY DIES AND BECOMES A GHOUL.
GHOSTS
THEY WANT WARM, FLESH-AND-BLOOD BODIES.
THE DISEMBODIED SOULS OF LIVING CREATURES.
SPEAKING OF SOULS.
THOUGH WHO KNOWS WHETHER SOULS EXIST ANYWAY.
NECROMANCY IS THE WORST KIND OF MAGIC THERE IS.
NAUSEATING.
I KNOW OF SOMETHING SIMILAR.
THE ANGELS' SHARE.
YOU THINK?
BUT IT'S ROMANTIC, ISN'T IT?
SOUNDS FISHY.
SOME SAY THAT'S THE WEIGHT OF THE SOUL.
WHEN PEOPLE DIE, THEIR BODIES GROW A LITTLE LIGHTER.
HOGWASH.
CAN YOU BE SURE THAT ISN'T THE WEIGHT OF THE GRAPES' SOULS?
I BET IT'S SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
IT'S THE TERM FOR WATER AND ALCOHOL THAT EVAPORATE DURING BREWING, DECREASING THE OUTPUT VOLUME.


HMM. PRETTY MUCH.
RIGHT?
FERMENTATION AND ROTTING ARE BASICALLY THE SAME THING.
ALCOHOL IS MADE BY FERMENTING PLANTS.
I SEE!
THEY HARVEST, MATURE PLANTS...
...THEN FERMENT THEM USING THE YEAST THAT'S "POSSESSED" THE FRUIT.
...CAN THEN BE PRESERVED FOR LONG PERIODS.
SOMETHING WHICH WOULD HAVE ROTTED QUICKLY AND TURNED TO SOIL IN ITS NATURAL STATE...
YOU COULD SAY BREWING IS ANCIENT NECROMANCY.
MAYBE
HMPH! DRINKS.
A NICE COLD ONE.
AH, DAMN. NOW I'M THIRSTY FOR A WHEAT GHOUL.
HEH.
IN THAT CASE, NECROMANCY'S NOT SO BAD.


SIGH.
YOU ONLY MADE IT BACK BECAUSE I WAS HERE.
DO NOT TRY THAT WHEN YOU'RE ALONE!
...THEY'RE REALLY ILLUSION SPELLS THAT MANIFEST AS PICTURES.
THEY HAVE "LIVING" IN THEIR NAME, BUT...
LIVING PICTURES
DON'T BE DUMB.
I'LL DRAW MYSELF IN DIRECTLY AND EAT THAT WAY!
I'VE GOT IT!
WHEN PEOPLE GET TRAPPED IN THOSE, 60% OF THE DEATHS ARE FROM STARVATION.
STILL, I DID THINK EATING IN THE PICTURES WAS A GOOD IDEA.
60%
CAUSES OF DEATH BY LIVING PICTURES
I GOT INTO THE PICTURE AS A PICTURE!
WOO-HOO!
HEY, MARCILLE! OVER HERE!
I FEEL EYES ON ME...
BUT WE SHOULD AT LAST
HUH?
PEOPLE HAVE TRIED THAT SORT OF THING ALREADY
WHY AM I HERE?
"I"? WHO'S "I"?
AMATEURS SHOULD NEVER MESS WITH MAGIC.
HOW LONG WILL I BE HERE?
I'M HERE!
SEN-SHI!
CHIL-CHUCK!
MAR-CILLE?
HUH? THAT'S ME
I GUESS IT'S NO GOOD.
LET'S JUST GO.


...YOU'LL BE DRAGGED UNDER BEFORE YOU KNOW IT...
IF YOU CARELESSLY MOUNT IT...
A BEAUTIFUL HORSE STANDS BY THE WATER.
KELPIES
IT HAS LOTS OF VITAMINS AND IRON! IRON IS HARD TO GET.
WHY NOT!?
LIVER IS VERY NUTRITIOUS!
WHY THE LIVER?
APPARENTLY, THEY DON'T EAT IT.
..."AND THE RIDER'S BLOOD AND LIVER FLOAT TO THE SURFACE," IT SAYS.
MAYBE BECAUSE EATING RAW LIVER IS DANGEROUS?
LAIOS, SAY SOMETHING TO HIM.
THERE'S NO ROOM FOR PICKY EATING IN THE WILD.
LIKE I CARE!?
LOTS OF PEOPLE DON'T
IT HAS A PRETTY UNIQUE TEXTURE
THEY PROBABLY DON'T LIKE IT.
YOU ALWAYS WERE A CLEVER HORSE.
ANNE...
SO THE OTHER PARTS ARE FINE?
IT'S BEST TO COOK IT WELL, ALL THE WAY THROUGH.
EAT RAW LIVER, AND YOU RISK HEPATITIS E, FOOD POISONING, AND PARASITES.
TRUE ...!

# 2

# DELICIOUS IN DUNGEON

## RYOKO KUI

**Translation: Taylor Engel** **Lettering: Abigail Blackman**

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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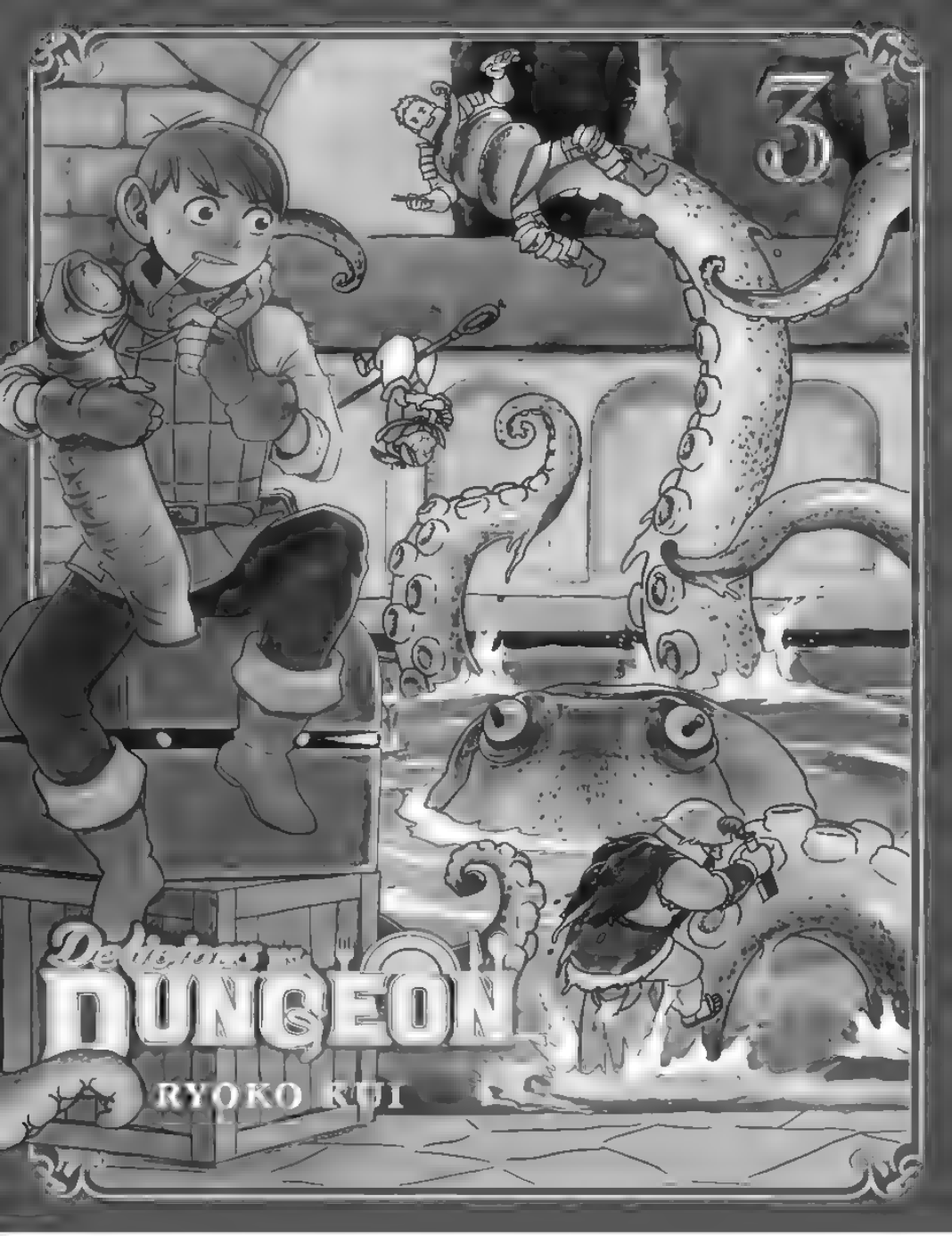
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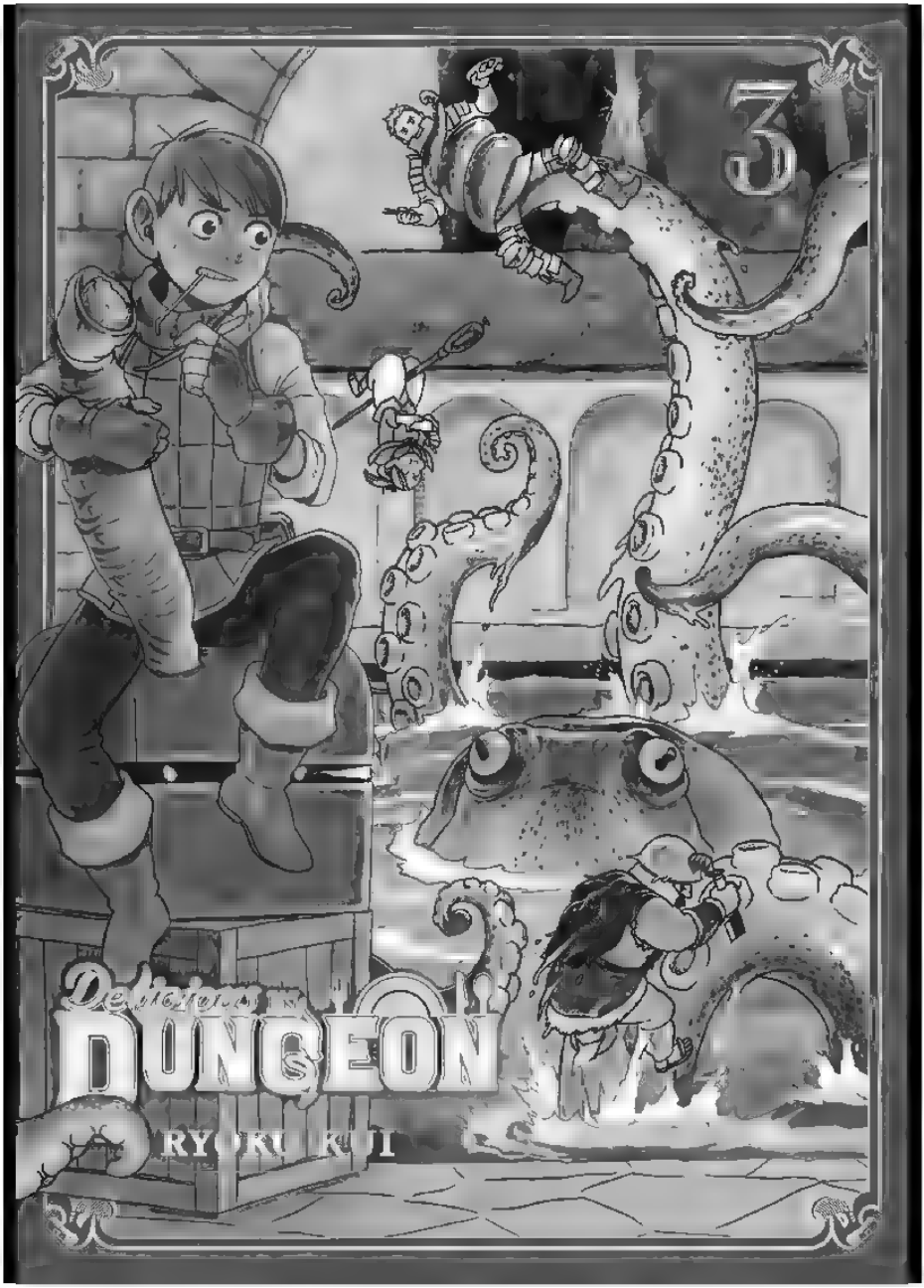
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3
DUNGEON
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3
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# Delicious in Dungeon



Ryoko Kui

3

# Delicious in Dungeon

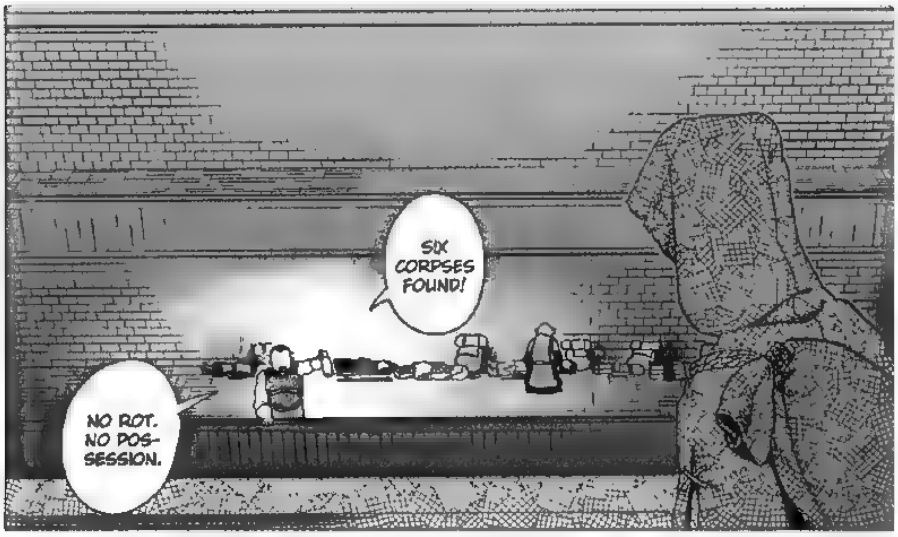
3

*Contents*

*Chapter 15* **PORRIDGE** — 005
*Chapter 16* **BROILED WITH SAUCE** — 029
*Chapter 17* **RASPBERRIES** — 059
*Chapter 18* **GRILLED MEAT** — 081
*Chapter 19* **TENTACLES** — 107
*Chapter 20* **STEW** — 137
*Chapter 21* **GIANT FROGS** — 163
*Bonus* **MISCELLANEOUS MONSTER TALES -3-** — 190




15. PORRIDGE


SIX CORPSES FOUND!
NO ROT. NO POSSESSION.


THERE'S A SMALL BITE ON HIS NECK.
IT WAS SOME SORT OF BUG.
JUST PARALYZED.
THEY'RE NOT DEAD.
!


CAN YOU HEAL THEM?
ON THIS FLOOR?
WELL, LET'S SEE.


SIX HUNDRED GOLD EACH FOR THE REVIVIFICATION.
WE'LL CUT YOU A DEAL AND TAKE 3,500 GOLD FOR THE SIX OF YOU.
THERE WE GO.
!?
!?
KOFF...
KOFF!
KOFF. KOFF...
HA A!
OH!
WE... GOT WIPED OUT?
BY WHAT?
WE'VE LOST A FEW POSSESSIONS.
DID YOU SEE ANYTHING ?
IT WAS TREASURE INSECTS, ALL RIGHT.
SHH.
AH! MY COINS!
MY NECKLACE IS GONE!
ALL THE JEWELS ARE GONE TOO.


I BET THEY STOLE 'EM.
YOU CAN'T TRUST CORPSE RETRIEV-ERS.
BOSO (WHINE)
SOMEBODY MUST'VE COME BY BEFORE WE DID.
NAH, WE DUNNO ANYTHING.
YOU WERE LYING HERE, ALL LINED UP.
APPAR-ENTLY, SOMEONE ELSE REALLY WAS HERE.
IT'S A SPELL TO REPEL GHOSTS.
A HAIR...
TSUUUU (PULL)
ELF...
SU (SNIFF)
SUN
SUN (SNIFF)


DWARF...
SLIN
スン
TALL-MAN...
SLIN
スン
AND THEY ATE HERE.
SLIN
スン
HALF-FOOT.
THEY ATE!?
JARIN CJINGLE)
チャリン
THANKS MUCH.
HOLD IT.
WE'RE NOT RUNNING A CHARITY HERE.
WHO WOULD DO THAT!?
TCH! LET'S GO FIND THEM!
CHARI CCLINK)
チャリ
WHY SHOULD WE?
THE MORE CORPSES THE BETTER.
...WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL THEM?


4F BELOW-GROUND
RIN, CAST THE WATER-WALK SPELL.
CAN'T TELL.
SUN
SUN (SNIFF)
IT'S NO GOOD BY THE WATER, HM?
I STILL DON'T SEE ANYBODY.
WHAT ABOUT THE SCENT?
IT FEELS LIKE ANY-THING COULD BE UNDER ME.
TON
TON
HAAH...
TON (TAP)
I HATE THIS FLOOR.
O


THERE'S NO NEED TO BE AFRAID OF MONSTERS IF YOU HANDLE THEM PROPERLY.
WHAT SORT OF MONSTERS LIVE HERE?
THERE ARE NO TRAPS HERE, SO WE CAN FOCUS ON THE ENEMY.
WE'LL JUST BE CAUTIOUS AND KEEP MOVING.
MERMAIDS AND SLIMES?
KRAKENS.
TENTA-CLES, UNDINES ...
KELPIES.
YEAH!
IF YOU KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH THEM, NONE OF THEM ARE HARD TO HANDLE INDI-VIDUALLY.
LET'S STAY CALM SO WE CAN TAKE WHAT-EVER COMES AT US!




FURA (WANDER)
KURO?
PIKURI (TWITCH)
I HEAR SOME-THING...
...IT'S A SONG!
PIKU (PUNCH)
OH!
FURAAA
KURO'S ACTING FUNNY!
G-GUYS!
MERMAIDS, HM? NOT GOOD.
PUT IN EARPLUGS, OR THEY'LL MANIPULATE YOU!




MERMAIDS BEWITCH PEOPLE WITH THEIR SONGS AND PULL THEM UNDERWATER...
...BUT THEY DON'T ATTACK DIRECTLY.


WE'LL BE FINE NOW.
IT'S NICE TO HAVE FRIENDS WITH SHARP EARS.


KON
CTONK
IT'S A SHAME WE CAN'T HEAR THEIR BEAUTIFUL VOICES, THOUGH.
LET ME GUESS WHAT YOU SAID.
"LOOK AT ME, NOT THE MER-MAIDS"?
WHAT, RIN?
WHY ARE YOU SULKING?
AH HA HA.
YOU'D BE CUTE IF YOU WERE ALWAYS LIKE THIS.
チャプ
CHAPU (SPLISH)


THEY'RE AT IT AGAIN.
SUN (SNIFF)
CHAPL (SPLISH)
GOSH (RUB)
YIP!
PI (PLIP)
PASHAN (SPLASH)
KURO?
WAIT ...!!
O...
GUYS, WAIT!


EH (WHAT?)
WHAT ARE YOU SO ANGRY ABOUT?
HOLD UP, RIN.
EEK
EEEEEE


HAAH...
C'MON, LET'S JUST GO.
YOU THINK WE COULD CARRY A WHOLE HORSE I?
I TOLD YOU!
MAGIC DOESN'T WORK ON SENSHI, SO WE'RE HAVING TROUBLE!
WHAT'S WITH THESE PEOPLE I?
IS THIS WHAT WE CAME HERE TO DO!?
CHIRA (GLANCE)
I HOPE THOSE AREN'T PEOPLE. LET'S GO LOOK.
DO WE HAVE TO...?
THERE'S SOMETHING FLOATING OVER THERE.
LET'S JUST GIVE UP AND PULL HIM ON A RAFT.
CHIL-CHUCK.
WHAT THE HECK? TAKING IT OUT ON ME?
I DUNNO IF IT'S WORTH GOING TO THE TROUBLE.
IF YOU'RE BORED, WANT TO COME TAKE A WALK?
YOU SHOULD YELL AT 'EM TOO.


HEY, A BACK-PACK.
THE SUPPLIES ARE LEAKING OUT.
IT'S GRAIN.
WHAT'S THIS WHITE STUFF?
HM?
SAY, DOES THIS GUY LOOK FAMILIAR TO YOU?
NO.
WATER-WALK'S ALMOST WORN OFF.
LET'S HAUL THEM UP ON LAND.
WHOA.
THERE'S ONE WITH AN OWNER!
HOW DID THEY GET AHEAD OF US?
HEY! I RECOGNIZE THIS KOBOLD. IT WAS LYING UP ON THE THIRD FLOOR!
A BEAST-MAN COMPANION... LUCKY...


THEY FELL FIGHTING MERMAIDS, HUH?
OH MAN..
GURLIN (FLIP)
YAGH!
CHIL-CHUCK!
FLIRA (WANDER)
CHIL-CHUCK?
.....
POOR...
...GUYS...
CHIL-CHUCK!!
BIKU (FLINCH)
GUPAN (CLAP)
CHIL!!

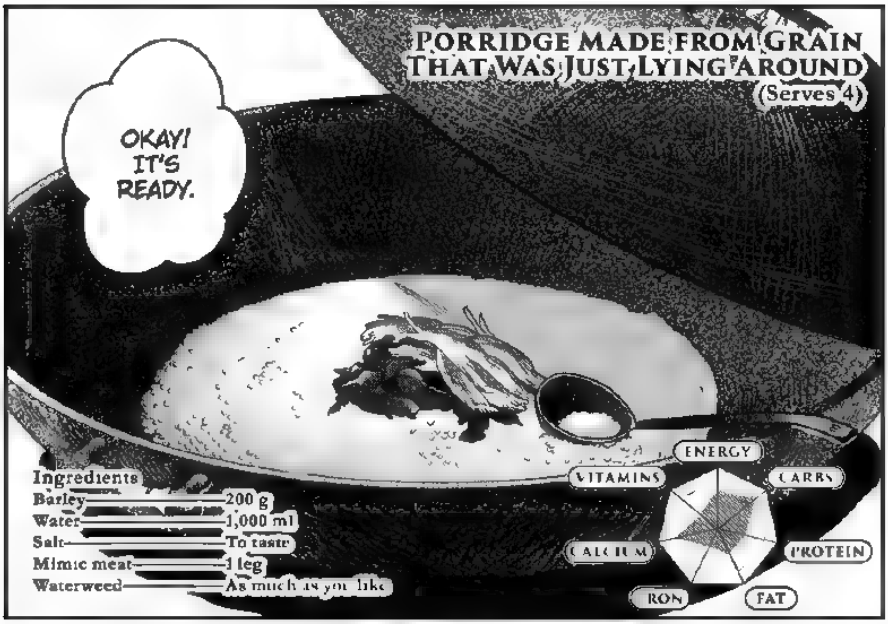

I DIDN'T GET TO SING IT TO THE END AGAIN.
AFTER I LEARNED IT AND EVERYTHING.
SOME STRANGER STARTS SINGING ALONG WITH YOU...
THAT WOULD BE TERRIFYING.
PASHA (SPLISH)
...


PHEW!
THAT SHOULD DO IT.
I HOPE THE CORPSE RETRIEVERS FIND THEM SOON.
I DOUBT THEY'D WANT IT.
THAT SCATTERED GRAIN IS A WASTE.
SHOULD WE PICK IT UP FOR THEM?
YAAAY!
POOR MARCILLE.
THEN WE'LL TAKE IT.
THAT SHOULD MAKE MARCILLE HAPPY.
DEMI-HUMANS ...
DEMI-HUMANS ...
I HADN'T SAID ANYTHING YET...
WE PROMISED WE WOULDN'T TOUCH DEMI-HUMANS.
PAN (WHAP)
NO!!


THIS IS THE PISCINE TYPE.
THEY HAVE GILLS, AND SINCE THEY LAY EGGS, THEY DON'T HAVE BELLY BUTTONS OR NIPPLES.
THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF MER-MAIDS—
MAMMA-LIAN AND PISCINE.
WHAT ARE THEY, ANY-WAY?
SAY WHAT?
SMART ENOUGH TO USE SPEARS?
MADE IT THEM-SELVES? BLACK-SMITHS?
ARMS LOOK HUMAN...
FACE IS 100% FISH.
THEY'VE GOT FINGERS TOO..
EAT...
ON THE SPECTRUM, THEY'RE FURTHER FROM PEOPLE THAN COWS OR PIGS.
...I THINK...
FEEL-INGS ...!?
FEEL-INGS, HUH?
DON'T TOUCH ME!
IT JUST...
TELL ME! WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT!?
WHY ARE COWS OKAY BUT NOT FISH-MEN!?
.. FEELS NASTY!
NOOO!!
HUUUUUH!?


I'M HUNGRY.
THEY'RE STILL AT IT.
LET'S MAKE SOME-THING.
WHEE!
WHAT IF WATER-WALK IS STILL ACTIVE AND IT DOESN'T ABSORB THE WATER?
THE CASTER IS DEAD. SHOULD BE FINE.
ADD WATER AND GRAIN, THEN SET IT OVER A FIRE.
...AND WATER-WEED.
ADD SHREDDED MIMIC MEAT...


HOLD IT.
THAT STUFF WAS GROWING ON THE FISH-MAN'S HEAD, WASN'T IT?
IS THAT STILL NOT OKAY WITH YOUR "FEELINGS"?
AGH.
THIS IS GONNA BE A PAIN.
IT HAS ROOTS, BUT THEY'RE JUST FOR STABILITY.
IT DOESN'T ABSORB NUTRIENTS THROUGH THEM.
THE FISH-MEN USE IT FOR CAMOU-FLAGE.
WITHOUT IT, THEY'D PROBABLY LOOK MORE LIKE FISH.
YES, BUT...
...THIS IS REALLY AND TRULY JUST A PLANT.
I THINK I JUST MADE A BAD DECISION.
DOKI (BADUMP)
DOKI (DOKI)
NIKYORI (BEAM)
FINE, FINE.
DO WHAT-EVER YOU WANT.


PORRIDGE MADE FROM GRAIN THAT WAS JUST LYING AROUND
(Serves 4)
OKAY! IT'S READY.
Ingredients
Barley 200 g
Water 1,000 ml
Salt To taste
Mimic meat 1 leg
Waterweed As much as you like
ENERGY
CARBS
PROTEIN
FAT
IRON
CALCIUM
VITAMINS


GRAIN?
WHERE DID YOU GET IT?


THAT TIME ALREADY?
HUH!?
YOU MADE THAT, LAIOS!?


LET'S HAVE LUNCH.
MARCILLE. SENSHI.

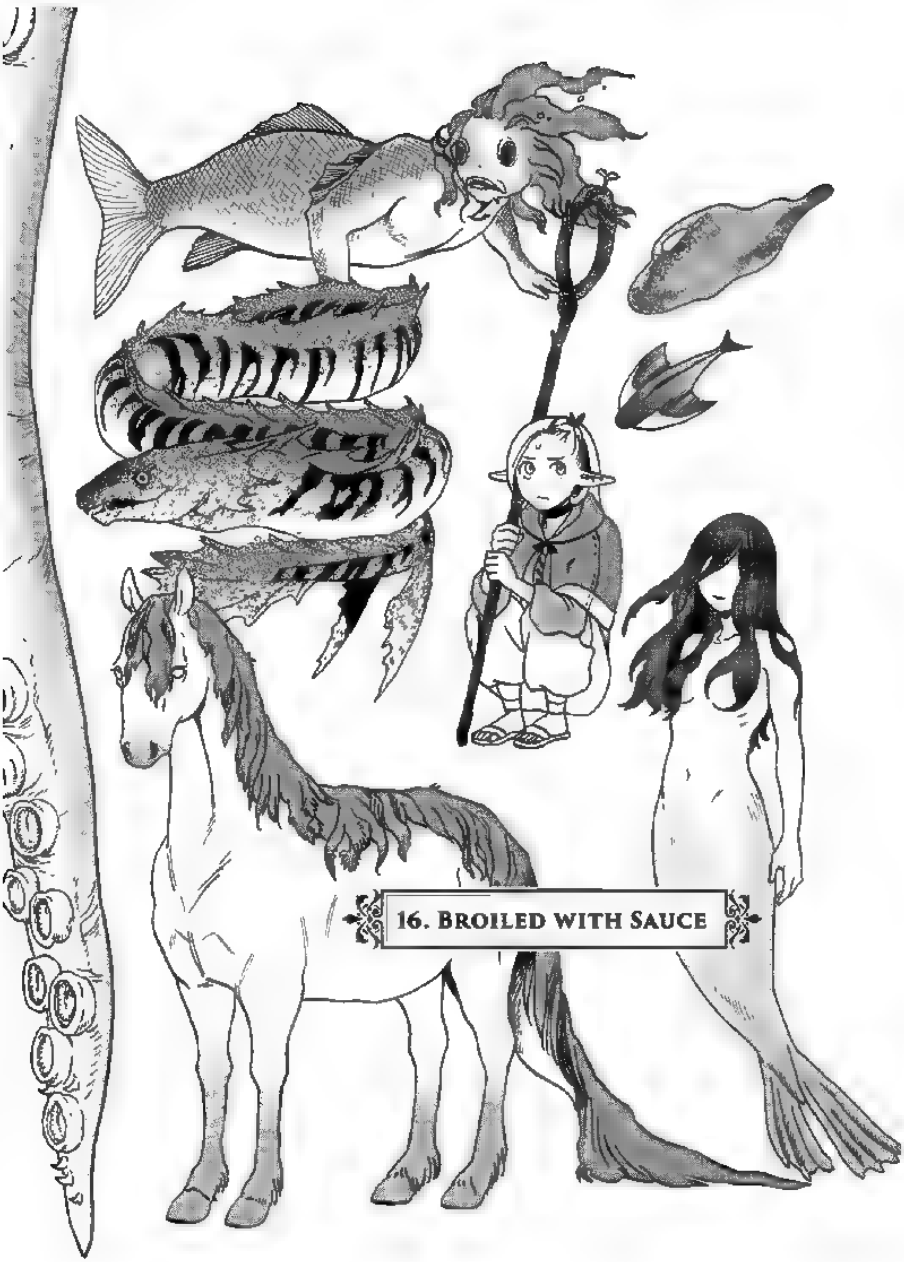

WELL, YOU ALREADY MADE IT, SO THERE'S NO HELP FOR IT.


NOT GOOD. IT SLIPPED RIGHT BY ME.
HAAH...
SHE'S RIGHT. THAT WASN'T OKAY, WAS IT?
THAT'S MARCILLE FOR YOU.


WHAT WERE YOU THINKING!?
IT BELONGED TO SOME DEAD ADVENTURERS OVER THERE.
OH.


THERE'S SOMETHING THAT POPS IN HERE.
WHAT IS IT?
MOGU CHEWO
HUFF!
THANKS FOR THE FOOD.
FWOO... FWOO..
I'M GLAD I PUT THEM IN.
HM. IT'S GOOD.
ISN'T IT?
FISH EGGS, MAYBE?
THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN ON THE WATER-WEED.
DO THEY? YOU SURE KNOW A LOT, CHILCHUCK.
LISTEN, YOU...
I BET FISH-MEN KEEP THEIR EGGS IN THE WATERWEED ON THEIR HEADS TO PROTECT THEM, RIGHT!?
THOSE ARE FISH-MEN EGGS, AREN'T THEY!?
C'MERE A SECOND.


UH-HUH!
MARCILLE, THAT STUFF...
.....
IS IT GOOD?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
DID YOU SERIOUSLY NOT KNOW?
...WELL, WHATEVER.
IT TASTES NORMAL.
.....
IS IT REALLY JUST A MATTER OF FEELINGS?
A MATTER OF FEELINGS...
FEELINGS...



# 16. Broiled with Sauce


AGHI MORE OF THEM!
NO, STOP!
LET ME HANDLE THIS!
I'LL GET RID OF ALL OF THEM!


OW!
LOOK OUT!

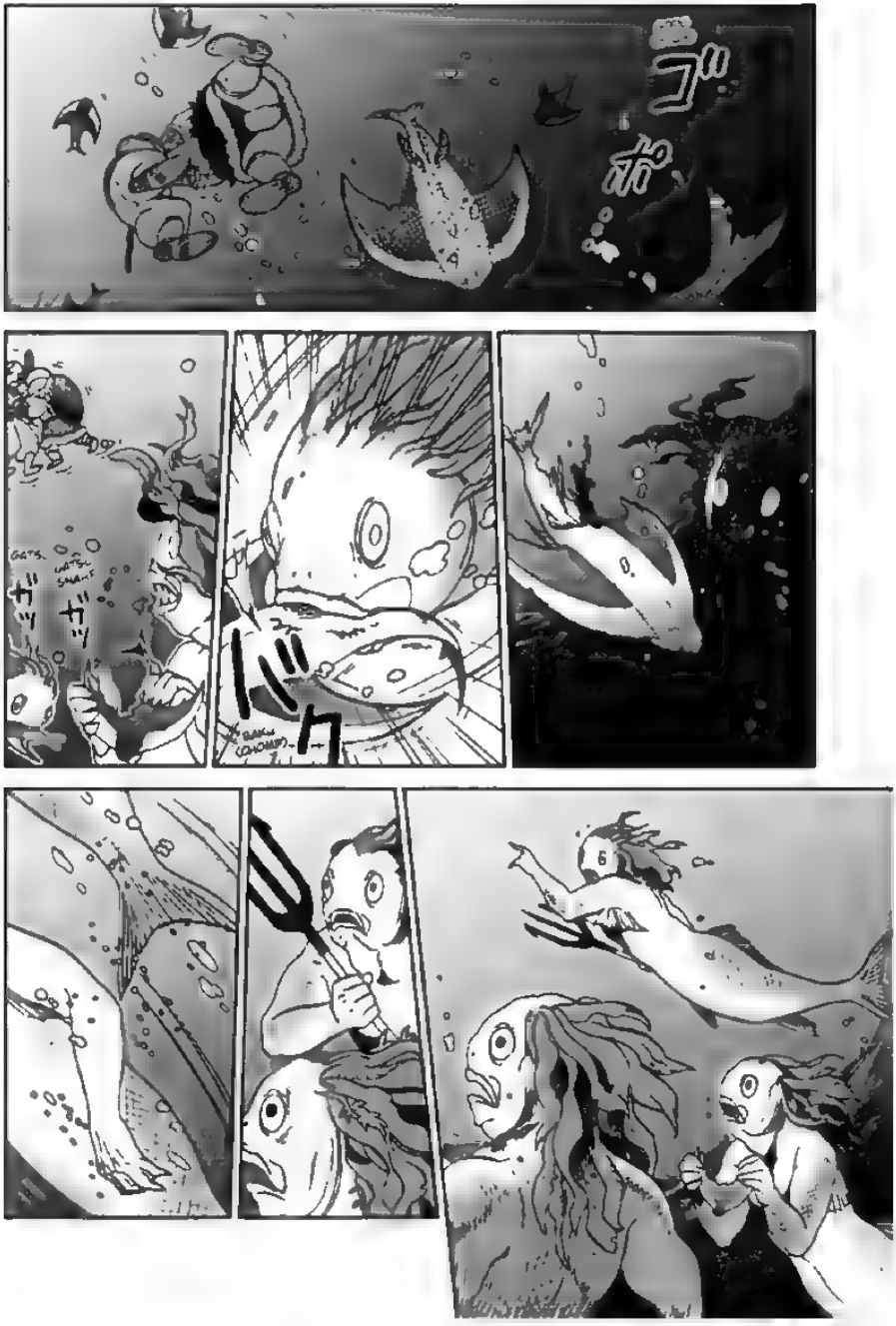

I TOLD YOU TO STOP!!
RRGH!

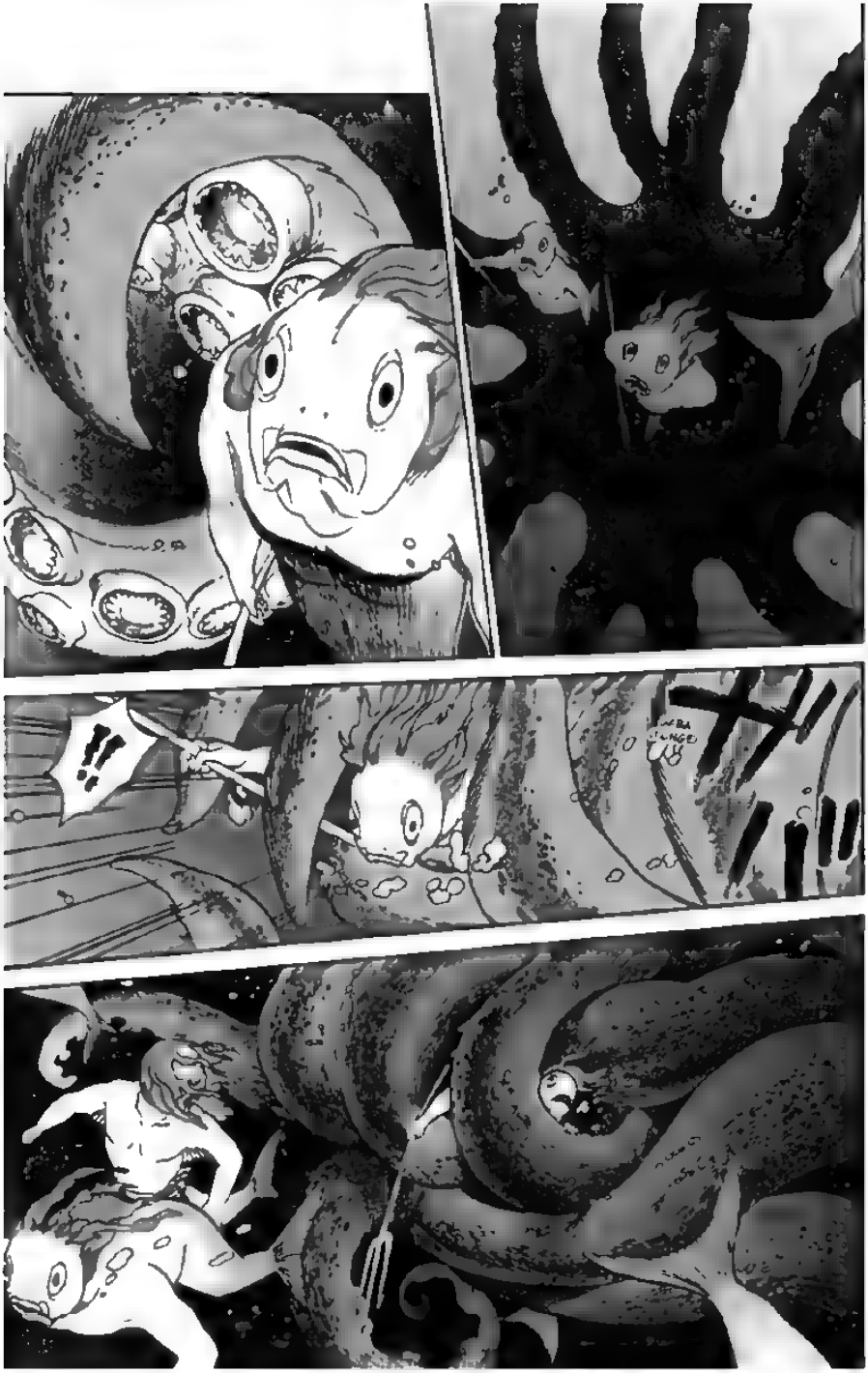

HUH!?
THEY KILL TOO MUCH!
NO UNDER-WATER EXPLO-SIONS!


...OTHER MONSTERS EAT THEM TOO.
IF THEIR NUMBERS DROP, IT WILL AFFECT THE DUNGEON'S ECOSYSTEM.

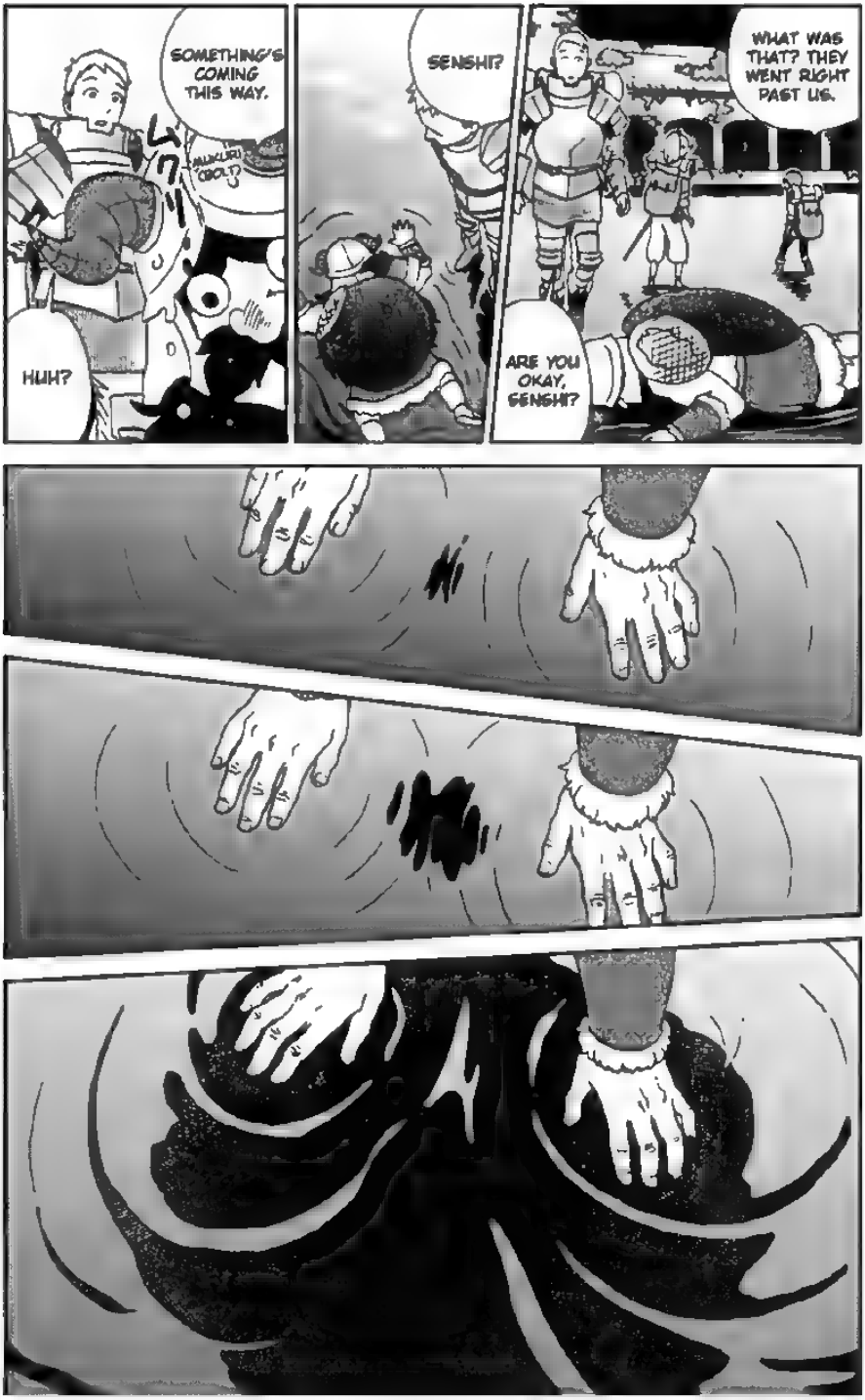

THESE BLADE FISH CAN BE BOILED, GRILLED, STEAMED, DRIED, SMOKED, OR EATEN RAW.
THEY'RE GOOD NO MATTER HOW YOU FIX 'EM. BUT...


YOU KNOW, THERE DO SEEM TO BE FEWER MID-SIZE MONSTERS THAN NORMAL...
THERE, YOU SEE!?
IT'S MY FAULT?
WHAT!?
IF YOU'RE GOING TO DO THAT, AIM FOR THEM ONE AT A TIME!
THAT'S NOT EVEN POSSIBLE!
THERE ARE MORE BLADE FISH THAN USUAL ANYWAY.
I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
BUT I CAN'T AFFORD TO HOLD BACK.
THEY'RE TRYING TO KILL US.
ふぅか...
PUKA (SIGH)
WHAT IF WE STOP BEING ABLE TO EAT!?
I DON'T WANT TO DIE PROTECTING THE MONSTERS' ECO-SYSTEM!!


ゴ
ポ
GUTS
GUTS
GUTS
SMASH
ガッ
ガッ
ガブ
GABU
(CHOMP)


!!
LUNGE

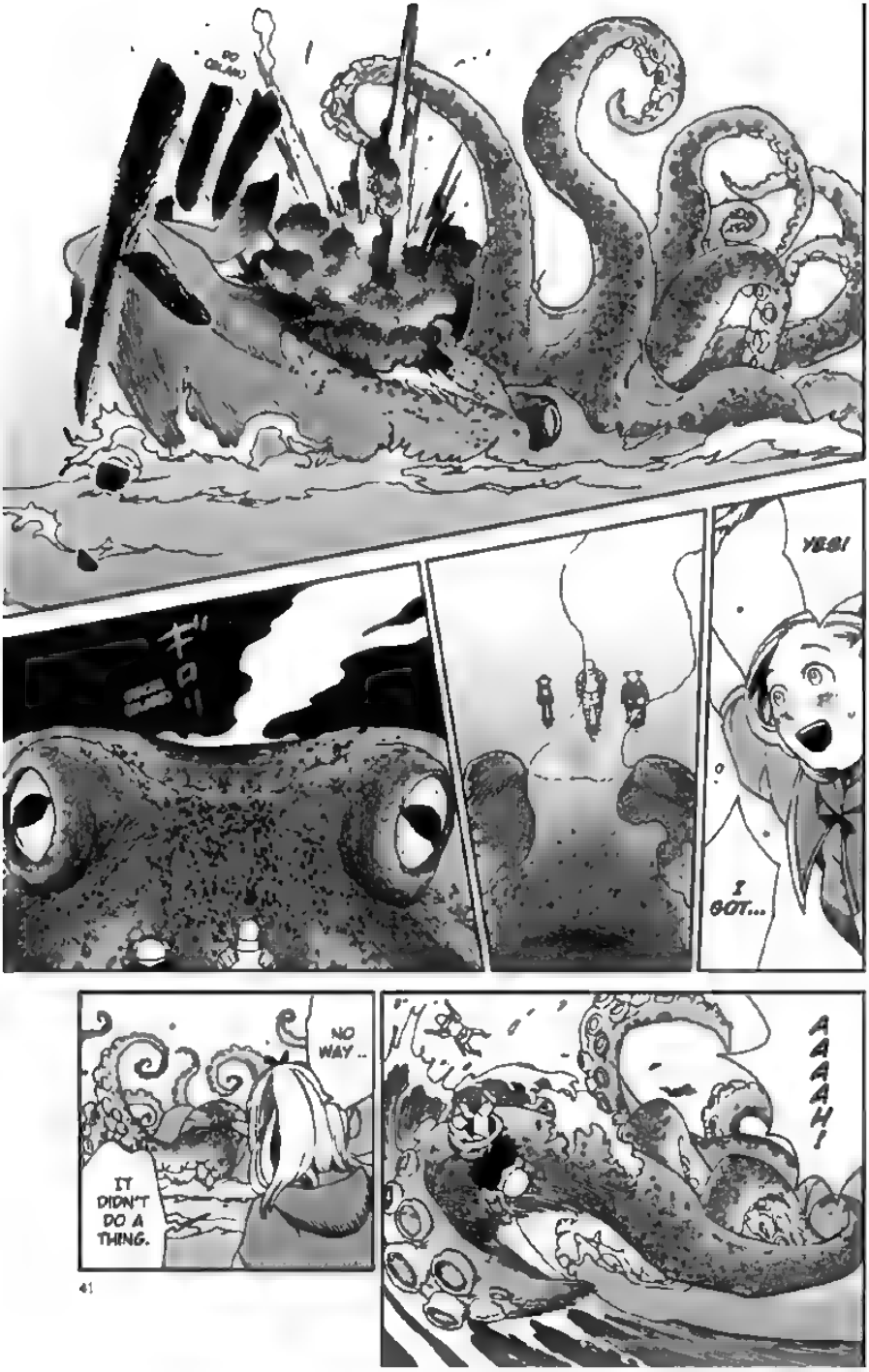

DA (LEAP)
GURA (TEETER)
?
DORA (CROSH)
WHOA!
SENSHI!
WHAT? WHAT'S GOING ON?
BASHA (SPLASH)
BITAN (SPLAT)
BOYON
BOYON (BOING)


SOMETHING'S COMING THIS WAY.
HUH?
SENSHI?
WHAT WAS THAT? THEY WENT RIGHT PAST US.
ARE YOU OKAY, SENSHI?




YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT!? IT'S WAY TOO BIG!
WHOA...
IT FEELS SO GROSS WHEN WATER-WALK REPELS THIS MUCH WATER!
ボルルルル
ブオオオ
WAUGH!
SFX: BORURURUN (BLUP-BLUP), BUORUN (BLORP) BUORUN
YAAGH!
DOO (BOOM)
SO COOL.
...AND THIS ONE'S SEVERAL TIMES BIGGER THAN NORMAL...!
THAT'S A PROB-LEM.
THEY'RE BIG MONSTERS ANYWAY...
A SQUID? NO, AN OCTOPUS ?
IT'S A KRAKEN!


DON'T WORRY THIS ONE HITS HOME
MORE MAGIC. HUH?
MARCILLE, DO YOUR THING
WE'LL DRAW IT AWAY.
THERE IT IS!
NOBODY STOP!
OVER HERE!!


ギロ!!
YES!
I GOT...
NO WAY..
IT DIDN'T DO A THING.
AAAAH!


ZUBA (SLASH)
HMM.
GUNN (TINK)
SO IT'S ALL WEAPONS CAN DO JUST TO BREAK THE SKIN.
BUON (WHIP)
PU (WHIP)
BUN (FLING)
PE (SLAP)
DOKA (WHUMP)
YAARGH


THIS ONE IS FINE.
NOT THAT ONE.
HUH...!?
I CAN'T USE BIG MAGIC LIKE THAT TWICE IN A ROW!
USE THAT MAGIC ONE MORE TIME.
MAR-CILLE.
SPELL, SOME KIND OF SPELL...
I MEAN...
...YOU'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN A KRAKEN BEFORE, RIGHT!?
ARE YOU REALLY, REALLY SURE ABOUT THIS PLAN!?
I DON'T KNOW KRAKENS...
...BUT I'VE DRESSED SQUID AND OCTOPUSES BEFORE!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF MONSTER IT IS?
NOPE!


IT'S HEADED YOUR WAY!
MARCILLE, LOOK OUT!
GUHA (SWING)
WATER-WALK!


...HIT 'EM RIGHT BETWEEN THE EYES!!
WHEN KILLING SQUID AND OCTOPUSES ...


BECHAA (SPLUT)
GUNYA (WILT)
ZAAAAA (HISSSSS)
HEEEY!
HUH? WHERE'S LAIOS?
WOW...
APPARENTLY, THIS GUY'S WHAT WAS EATING ALL THE MIDSIZE MONSTERS.
YOU'VE GOT SUCKER MARKS ON YOU.
BLECH ...
LAIOS, WHERE ARE YOU!?
HERE. OVER HERE.

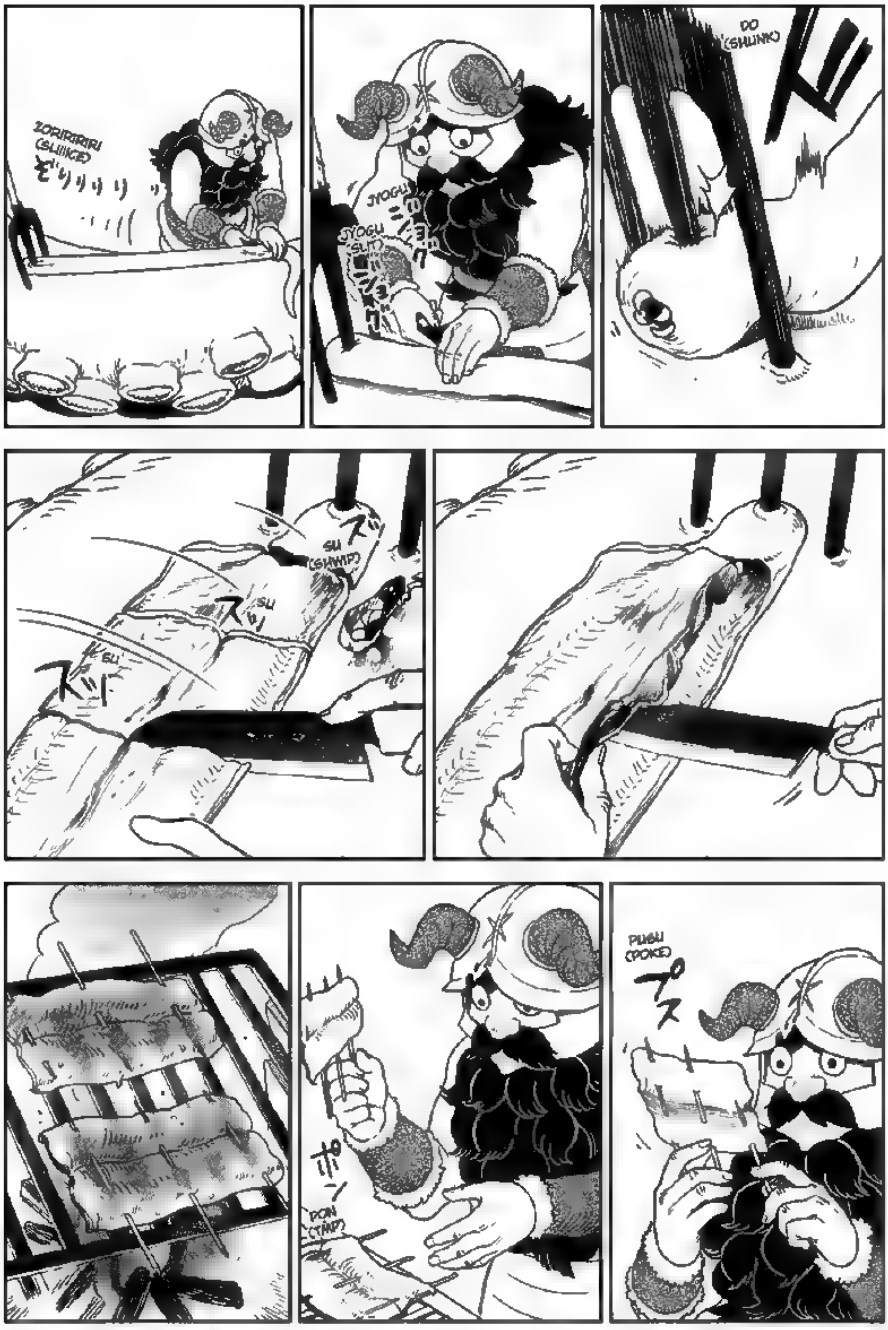

EEE!
EEE!
C'MERE A MINUTE, YOU TWO.
GO CHUNKO,
AND THEN...
BOOKS ARE FINE, BUT YOU SHOULD TRY ACTUALLY DRESSING SEAFOOD.
IF YOU GOUGE THIS SPOT ON SQUID AND OCTOPUSES, THEY DIE REAL EASY.
TORSO
HEAD
ARM
THIS IS WHERE THE INTERNAL ORGANS ARE. ON PEOPLE, IT'D BE THE TORSO.
AH, I SEE.
HM?
ISN'T THIS THE HEAD?
...HAS BONES...
IT. .
THOUGHT SO. IT DOES HAVE CARTILAGE.
IF YOU'RE USING SPELLS, AIM FOR THE HEAD, NOT THE STOMACH.


DID YOU GROW UP IN THE MOUNTAINS?
YOU'RE KIDDING!
THEY'RE INCREDIBLY YUMMY!
HUH?
YOU'VE NEVER HAD THEM?
I'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN THEM FOR SALE.
ARE SQUID AND OCTOPUSES GOOD TO EAT?
STEWED WITH GARLIC SAY
..OR DRESSED WITH VINEGAR..
..OR FRIED..
...OR STEWED WITH TOMATOES..
THEY'RE DELICIOUS WHATEVER YOU DO WITH THEM.
BOIL THEM, GRILL THEM, STEAM THEM, DRY THEM, SMOKE THEM, OR EAT THEM RAW...
...GRILLED WHOLE..
I DUG MY OWN GRAAAVE!!
I'LL TELL YOU WHERE IT IS LATER.
THERE'S A GOOD SHOP IN THE NEXT TOWN OVER.
WE CAN'T JUST TRY IT NOW?


HOW DO I EAT THIS?
OH BOY! OH BOY!
TRY IT WITH SALT FIRST.
WHOA! IT'S SO WEIRD!
GABU! (CHOMP!)
ガブ！
QUIT GETTING THE WRONG IDEA!!
NO! NO!!
YOU EAT THIS IN EVERYTHING, MARCILLE?
IT'S HORRIBLY BITTER. MY MOUTH IS TINGLING.
WELL, WELL.
IT STINKS!


PERARI (PEEL)
MOZO (WRIGGLE)
MOZO
HM?
MIGHT'VE TAKEN IT FROM THE WRONG PLACE.
WHAT ABOUT THE STOM-ACH?
SHAAAA (HISSSS)
IT'S A PARASITE.
WHOOOA!!
KUTTARI (LIMP)
BAN (WHUNK)


GET RID OF IT! HURRY!
EW. THAT'S DISGUST-ING!
SFX: ZOOOO (SHIVER)
WHAT ARE YOU FUSSING FOR?
ALL LIVING THINGS HAVE PARASITES.
THIS IS FAN-TASTIC!
SO BIG MONSTERS HAVE BIG PARASITES TOO!
...IF WE COOKED THIS, WE COULD EAT IT TOO.
THEN...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY THAT!
MOST OF THEM GET MIXED INTO FOOD TOO.
NO!!
N!
O!
THAT'S ONE WAY TO THINK ABOUT IT, YES.
NO!!


SUUUU (SLURP)
JYOGU (SLIP)
DO (SHUNK)
SU (SWIPE)
SU
SU
PUKU (POKE)
PON (CHAP)

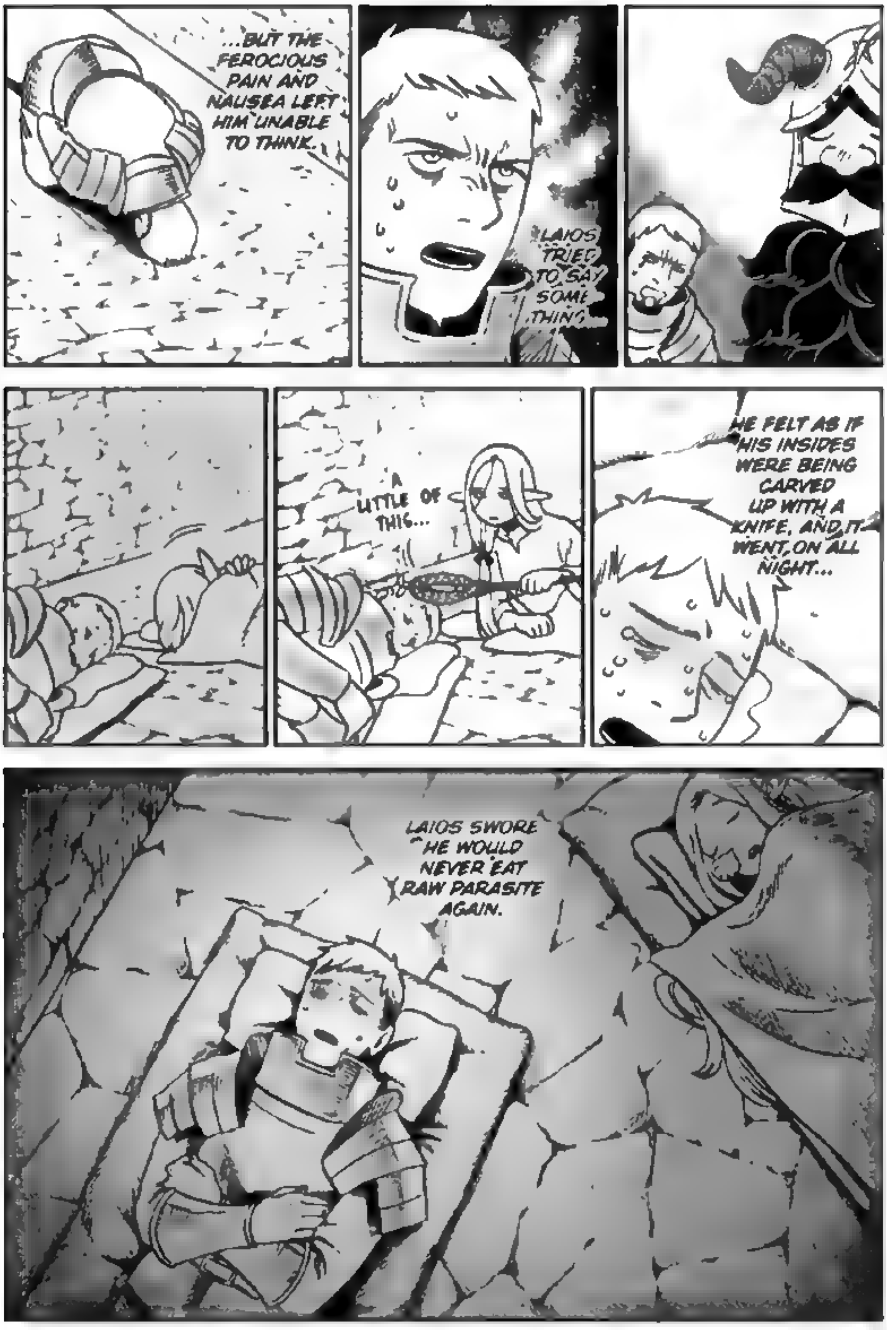

AGH!
IT SMELLS GREAT! THAT'S REALLY IRRITATING!
JYU (SIZZLE)
JYU
RUSH! (SPUT)
WE'LL TRY GRILLING THIS ONE WITH SAUCE.
GOKURI (GULP)
PUSU (POKE)
GIANT PARASITE FROM A GIANT KRAKEN
BROILED PLAIN AND WITH SAUCE
(Serves 4)
IT'S DONE!!
ENERGY
VITAMINS
CARBS
CALCIUM
PROTEIN
IRON
FAT
Ingredients
Giant parasite 1
Sauce:
• Soy sauce 100 ml
• Rice wine 100 ml
• Sugar 80 g
• Sake 40 ml


PAKU CHUWOH
FWOO...
FWOO...
WHAT IS THIS? IT'S INCREDIBLY LIGHT AND SOFT. REALLY GOOD!
IT'S A LITTLE SLIMY, BUT IT'S NICE AND MEATY.
YUM!!
NOT BAD.
IT...IT'S DELI-CIOUS...
HAGU (CHOMP)
CHUMI (NIBBLE)


...TRUE. PROBABLY.
THAT'S NOT...
IT MIGHT BE EVEN BETTER THAN SQUID OR OCTOPUS.
IT'S GOOD IN A DIFFERENT WAY FROM NORMAL FISH.
IT'S FINE. IT'S ALREADY DEAD.
JUST A LITTLE.
WAIT, NO! YOU ATE IT RAW!?
I TRIED A LITTLE BIT RAW, AND IT HAD A MILD FLAVOR.
I BET THIS WOULD BE GOOD ANY WAY YOU COOKED IT TOO.
NOW THE MIDSIZE-MONSTER POPULATIONS SHOULD RECOVER.
THE FISH ARE EATING THE KRAKEN.
HEY.

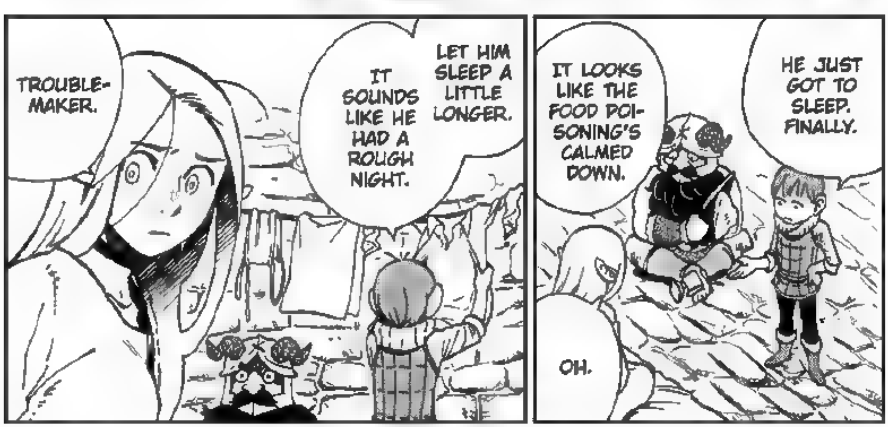

WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU OKAY!?
THAT'S...
OW!
OW, OW, OW, OW!
...HM?
MY STOMACH FEELS SORT OF...
THEY DON'T FEED OFF OF HUMANS, BUT THEY DO POKE HOLES IN YOUR STOMACH, SO IT HURTS REAL BAD.
WELL... WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE PARASITE TO DIE.
1cm
LIKE THIS.
IT'S THE SORT YOU FIND IN NORMAL FISH. I SAW ONE WHEN I WAS CUTTING IT UP.
NO, BUT...
I THOUGHT SO.
LAIOS, YOU CAUGHT A PARASITE FROM THAT GIANT PARASITE.
!?
WHY DON'T WE CAMP HERE FOR TODAY?
SURE.
OOG...
BLRGH ...
MAYBE HIT HIM WITH RECOVERY MAGIC EVERY SO OFTEN.
WON'T I DIE FIRST?
I COULD DO THAT.

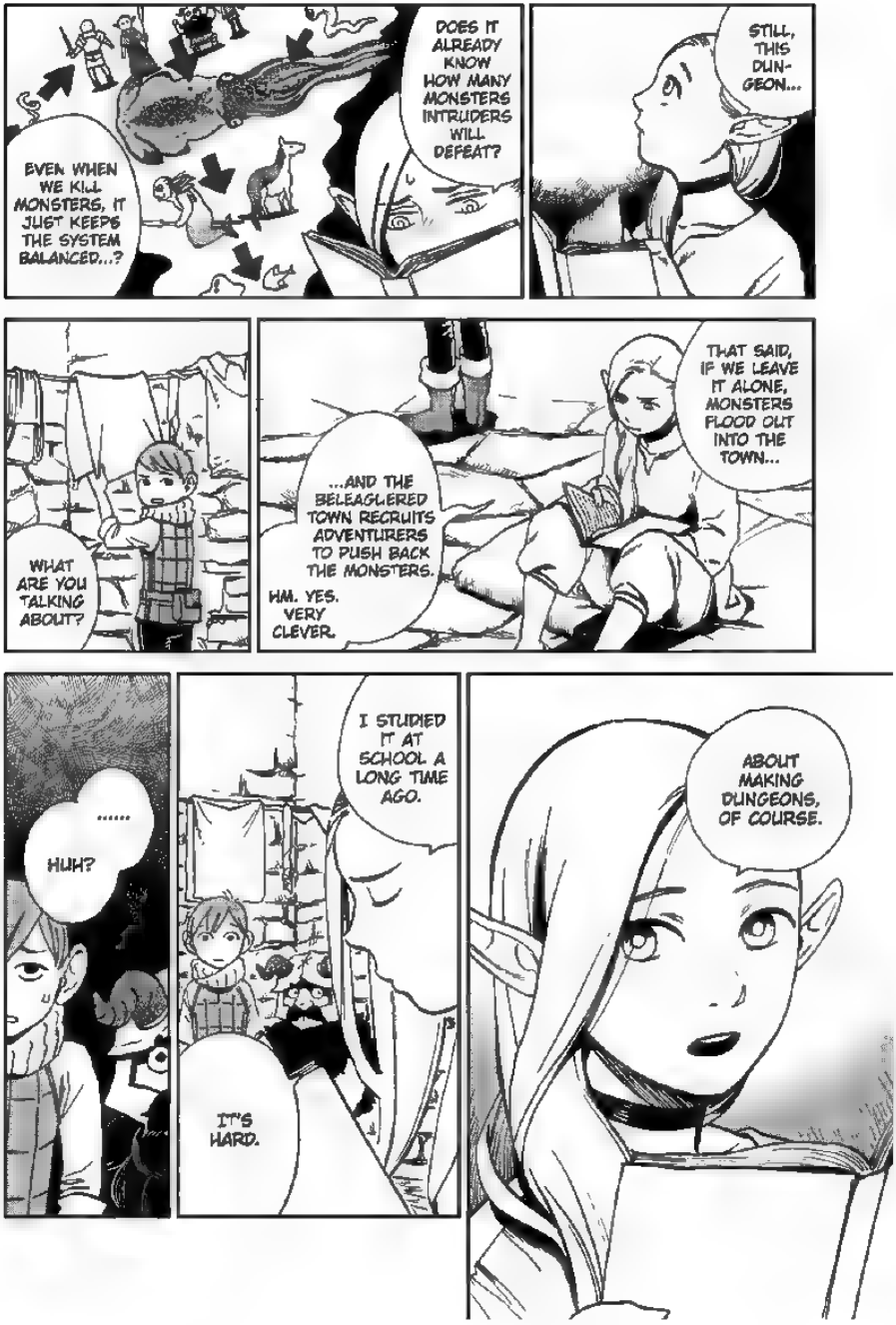

THE FISH-MEN ATE THE BLADE FISH...
...AND THE KRAKEN ATE THE FISH-MEN.
STILL, I SEE NOW...
LAIOS ATE THE KRAKEN'S PARASITE...
...AND THE PARASITE'S PARASITE IS BORING HOLES IN HIS STOMACH WALL.
WE DEFEATED THE KRAKEN...
...AND THE LITTLE FISH ARE EATING IT.
WE WERE ALREADY PART OF THE DUNGEON'S CIRCLE.
I SUPPOSE THINKING I NEEDED TO TAKE IT UPON MYSELF TO PROTECT THE ECOSYSTEM WAS A BIT ARROGANT OF ME.

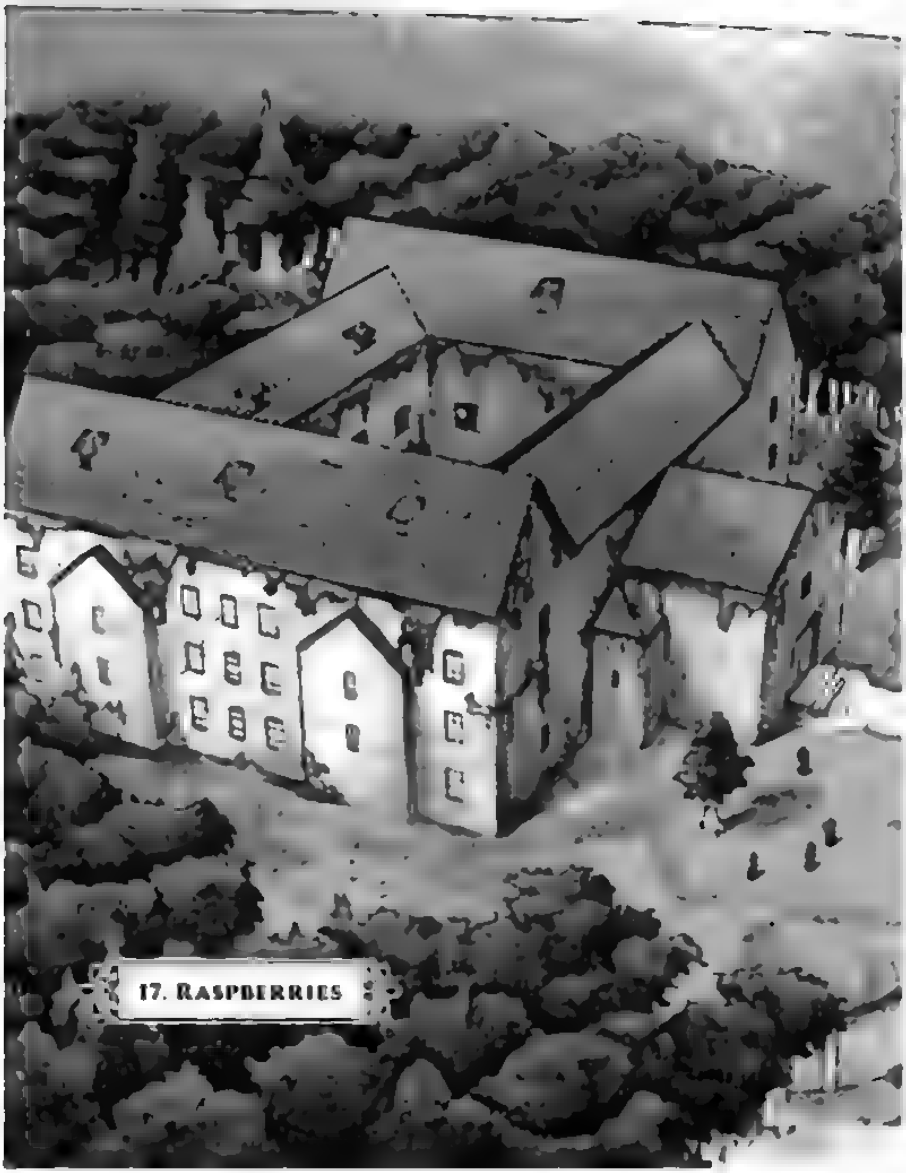

...BUT THE FEROCIOUS PAIN AND NAUSEA LEFT HIM UNABLE TO THINK.
LAIOS TRIED TO SAY SOME THING...
A LITTLE OF THIS...
HE FELT AS IF HIS INSIDES WERE BEING CARVED UP WITH A KNIFE. AND IT WENT ON ALL NIGHT...
LAIOS SWORE HE WOULD NEVER EAT RAW PARASITE AGAIN.


Chapter 17


I CAN'T...
...HEAR HIS HEART...
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE LISTENING THROUGH HIS ARMOR!
AGH!!
I OVER-SLEPT!


TROUBLE-MAKER.
IT SOUNDS LIKE HE HAD A ROUGH NIGHT.
LET HIM SLEEP A LITTLE LONGER.
IT LOOKS LIKE THE FOOD POI-SONING'S CALMED DOWN.
HE JUST GOT TO SLEEP. FINALLY.
OH.


EVEN WHEN WE KILL MONSTERS, IT JUST KEEPS THE SYSTEM BALANCED...?
DOES IT ALREADY KNOW HOW MANY MONSTERS INTRUDERS WILL DEFEAT?
STILL, THIS DUN-GEON...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
HM. YES. VERY CLEVER.
...AND THE BELEAGUERED TOWN RECRUITS ADVENTURERS TO PUSH BACK THE MONSTERS.
THAT SAID, IF WE LEAVE IT ALONE, MONSTERS FLOOD OUT INTO THE TOWN...
HUH?
.....
IT'S HARD.
I STUDIED IT AT SCHOOL A LONG TIME AGO.
ABOUT MAKING DUNGEONS, OF COURSE.


17. Raspberries


ZAWA
ZAWA
ZAWA
ZAWA
S-SAY...
ISN'T THAT...?
HEH!
HUH?
HUH? (WHISPER)
YOU MEAN MISS MARCILLE FROM THE RESEARCH COURSE?
SHE'S THE MOST TALENTED GIRL IN THE HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL.
THEY SAY SHE WAS MADE THE TEACHER'S ASSISTANT ON HER VERY FIRST DAY...
...AND THAT THEY'VE ALREADY DECIDED SHE'LL BE A COURT MAGICIAN.
O-OF COURSE!
DO GO EASY ON ME, WON'T YOU?
I PESTERED THE TEACHER TO LET ME TAKE THIS CLASS WITH YOU TODAY.
THEY LET ME BE AN ASSISTANT ON MY FIFTH DAY AT SCHOOL...
...AND MY PARENTS WERE COURT MAGICIANS. THAT'S ALL.


TAKE WOODEN DISCS WITH HOLES IN THE CENTERS...
...AND STACK THEM IN THE VESSEL, ALTERNATING THEM WITH LAYERS OF SOIL.
TODAY WE'LL BE DOING A SPIRIT PROPAGATION EXPERIMENT.
EACH OF YOU TAKE A BEAKER AND GO OUTSIDE.
SFX: NYU (SQUEEZE)
RELEASE (:: SPIRITS + INTO IT.
WHEEE!
CAST A BARRIER, THEN FILL THE AREA INSIDE WITH MANA.
TON (TAP)
TON
KEEPING SPIRITS IS PRACTICALLY THE FOUNDATION OF SUMMONING MAGIC.
BECAUSE THESE STRUCTURES ARE SIMILAR TO THE MONSTER-HAUNTED DUNGEON, THEY'RE ALSO CALLED DUNGEONIUMS.
THE MICROSCOPIC "SPIRITS" LIVE ON THE MANA THAT'S INSIDE THE VESSEL.
IF THE MANA IS TOO CONCENTRATED OR TOO WEAK, THEY'LL DIE.


OOH!
IF YOU'RE DONE, TAKE YOUR BEAKERS TO THE DARK-ROOM.
THEN LOOK FORWARD TO NEXT WEEK.
I'M RESEARCH-ING HOW TO BUILD A SAFE DUNGEON.
BUT WHY SUMMONING MAGIC?
IT'S OUTSIDE YOUR SPECIALTY, ISN'T IT?
WOW!
MISS MARCILLE, YOUR BARRIER'S SO PRETTY!
WAS THIS REALLY YOUR FIRST TIME?
H-HUH
THAT'S REALLY WOW.
...AND RAISE ONLY USEFUL MON-STERS ...
BUT IF WE COULD MAKE A SAFE DUN-GEON...
...I THINK IT WOULD BE VERY BENEFICIAL FOR EVERY-ONE.
RIGHT NOW...
...MAN-DRAKES AND OTHER MAGIC MATERIALS...
...ARE HAR-VESTED UNDER DAN-GEROUS CONDI-TIONS.


CAREFUL.
FUWA CLOT
DON CHHUN!?
OH!
MISS MARCILLE, YOUR BARRIER!
LET US SEE! LET US SEE!
THERE ARE IMPURITIES IN HER SOIL.
THE BARRIER IS FULL OF HOLES, AND THE MANA IS WEAKENING.
THE SPIRITS INSIDE THAT WON'T SURVIVE LONG...
PEKO CROUCH
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
TH-THANK YOU.
SHE SKIPS CLASS A LOT TOO, SO SHE'S BEHIND.
HM...
YOU DIDN'T GET YOUR CLOTHES DIRTY, DID YOU?
THAT GIRL'S ALWAYS ALL MUDDY.


MINE SURVIVED SOMEHOW.
MINE ALL DIED!
THAT'S MOLD.
A NEW TYPE OF SPIRIT...!
ONCE YOU'VE RETRIEVED YOUR BEAKERS ...
...LET'S SEE HOW MANY SPIRITS ARE LEFT.
EEEK!
...
THE CONDITION'S JUST ABOUT THE SAME.
WELL DONE.
(SHUF)
THE MORE SPIRITS THERE ARE, THE BIGGER THE FLAME.
DOOO (GOOOH)
THAT'S QUITE THE INCREASE.
WHAT DO I DO...?
I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.
GOOOOO (WOOOSH)
M-MY BEA-KER...


S-SAY...
THAT BEAKER...
HOW ON EARTH DID YOU DO IT!?
SOME-WHERE WITH LOTS OF SPIRITS?
WHERE IS IT?
I-I'M SORRY.
...AND I THOUGHT IF I USED IT AS A MODEL, I MIGHT GET A GOOD RESULT.
THERE'S A PLACE THAT ALWAYS HAS LOTS OF SPIRITS...
IT'S THE REAL DUNGEON.
CHIRA (GLANCE)
IT'S, UM...


THERE'S A SECRET PASSAGE HERE...?
WE GET OUT THROUGH HERE.
I MEAN, UM...
NO WONDER YOU'RE FALLING BEHIND.
DO YOU DO THIS OFTEN?
UH-HUH.


TA-DAAA.
YAUGH!
GRASS-HOPPER!!
BA (POUNCE)
PAKU (MUNCH)
YAUGH!
BA
RASP-BERRIES !!
TH-THEY'RE NOT WEIRD...
AND GRASS-HOPPERS AND RASP-BERRIES AREN'T POISONOUS.
DON'T EAT WEIRD THINGS! DON'T EVEN TOUCH THEM!
WHAT IF THEY'RE POISON-OUS!?


IT REALLY IS THE DUNGEON... I'VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE.
WAIT! THAT'S DANGER-OUS!
HYDI
UGH... THE MANA IS CONGESTED, AND THE AIR IS STALE.
IT'S A NATURAL CAVE, SEE?
IT'S FINE. I COME HERE A LOT.
IT'S SAFE IF YOU STAY ON DRY GROUND.


INCREDI-
BLE...
THE INSIDE OF THE DUNGEON IS SWARMING WITH SPIRITS.
I SEE...
I PUT SOME OF THIS DIRT AND WATER IN MY BEAKER.


SO SHE REALLY IS JUST SKIP-PING.
MM...
WRITE LETTERS.
READ BOOKS.
WHAT DO YOU DO WAY OUT HERE?
WAIT...
EITHER WAY, IT DOESN'T LOOK DANGEROUS HERE.
...AND PLANTED MANDRAKES...
...WE COULD SAFELY HARNESS THE DUNGEON'S MANA.
...LIKE THIS...
IF WE MADE THIS PLACE...


IT'S RIGHT NEAR THE WATER TOO.
YES! THAT WOULD WORK!
THEY SHOULD GROW WELL IN A PLACE THAT'S THIS FULL OF MANA.
GUNYAA (WARP)
...HM?
EEEEK!

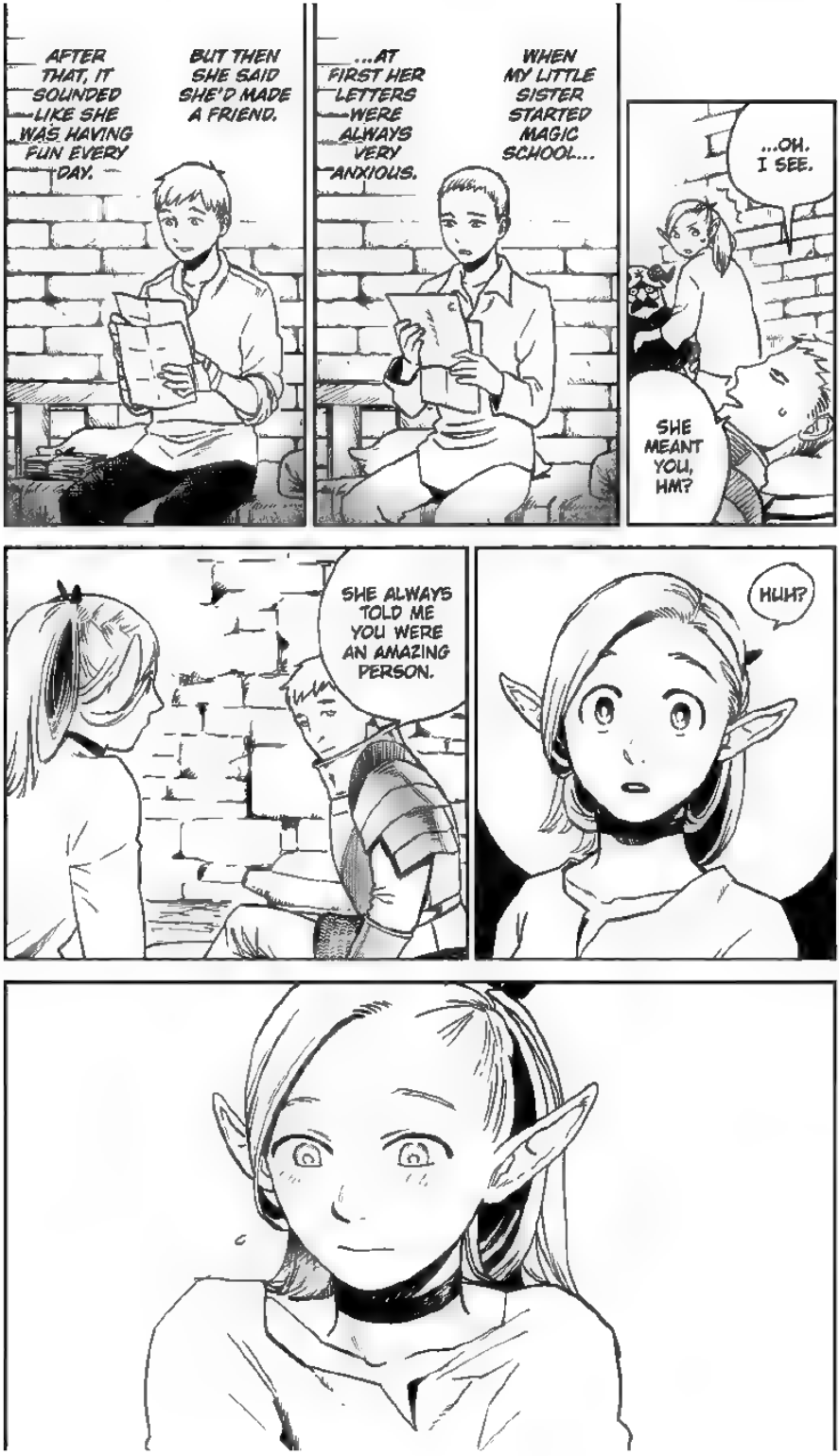

A...A SLIME!
BA (GRAB)
N-NO!!
DWAH!
GET BACK! IT'S DANGER-OUS!
BUT!
I'LL JUST...
...BURN ALL THE MON-STERS!
WHAT WAS THAT FOR!?
THEY WON'T COME INTO THE SUNLIGHT...


BATS...?
WITHOUT THEM, THE DUNGEON WOULD DIE.
THE SLIMES BREAK DOWN THE BAT GUANO AND TURN IT INTO MANA.
MUCHIMUCHI (PALPABLE)
みっちり!!

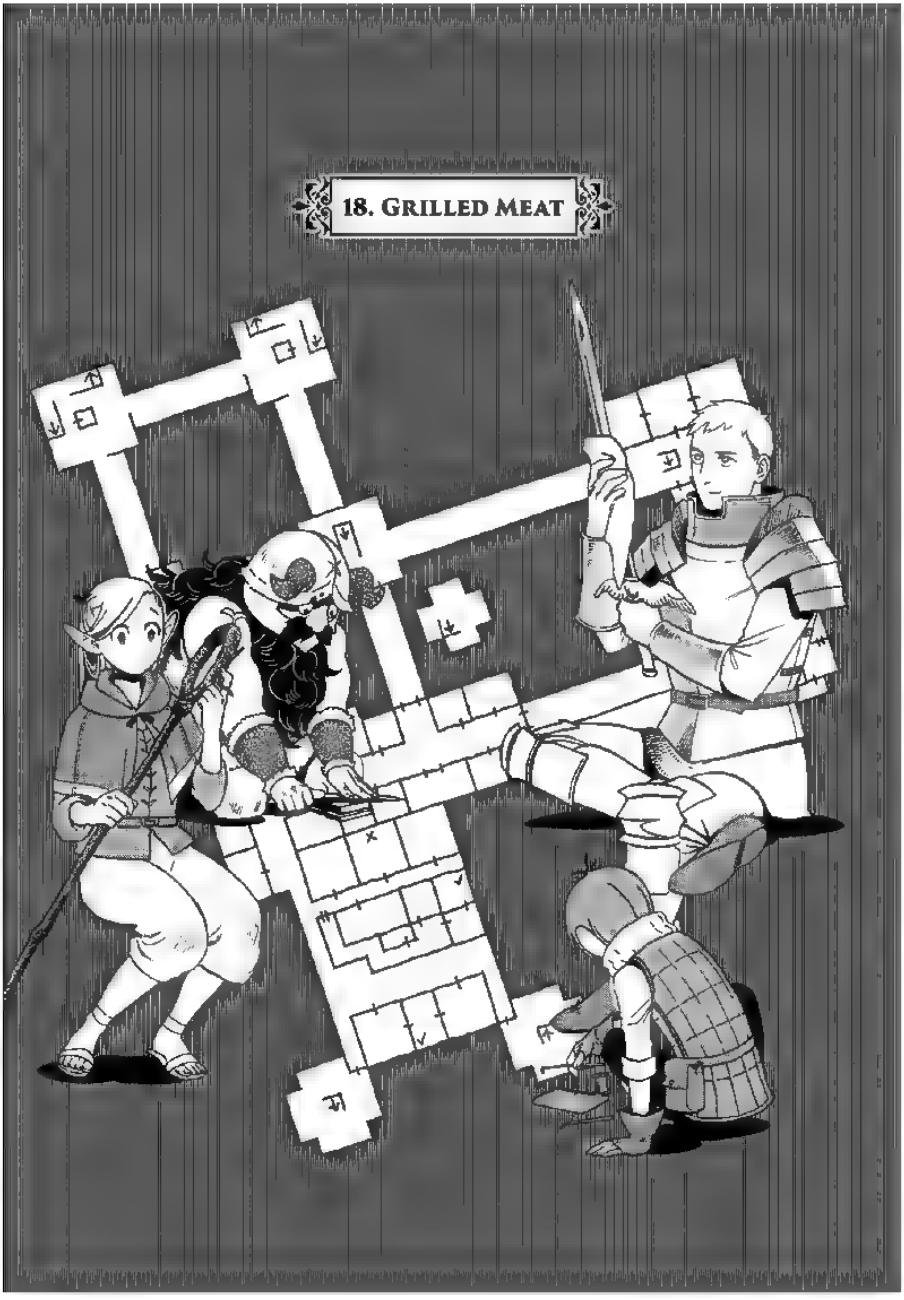

YUMMY...
HERE.
I CAN'T MAKE A DUNGEON WITHOUT KNOWING THINGS LIKE THAT...
WHAT SORT OF ANIMALS EAT THEM?
WHAT TIME OF YEAR DO THESE RASPBERRIES GROW?
IF THEY'RE THIS GOOD, OTHER ANIMALS PROBABLY EAT THEM.
I WONDER WHAT THOSE BATS EAT.
I HAVEN'T LEARNED ENOUGH...


THANK YOU FOR BRINGING ME HERE.
I THOUGHT ALL I HAD TO DO TO IMPROVE WAS STUDY MAGIC, BUT APPARENTLY, THAT ISN'T TRUE.
I'M FALIN.
WHO ARE YOU?
OH!
BY THE WAY, UM...
I'M MARCILLE.
I'D LIKE TO BE FRIENDS WITH YOU, FALIN.


I WAS AN HONOR STUDENT AT SCHOOL!
NO, IT'S TRUE!
THE PART ABOUT BEING THE SCHOOL'S MOST TALENTED GIRL EVER WAS A LIE, RIGHT?
...AND THAT'S HOW I REMEMBER IT.
...HE'S DEFINITELY TROUBLE.
IF THERE REALLY IS A LUNATIC MAGICIAN...
ANYWAY, THIS DUNGEON IS UNBELIEVABLE.
IT USES LAYER UPON LAYER OF CALCULATIONS...
...AND KEEPS A VAST AMOUNT OF MANA IN CIRCULATION.
I CAN'T HEAR YOU.
YOU HATE MAGIC. THE DUNGEON IS ACTUALLY MADE OF MAGIC!
HMPH.
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
SENSHI, I WOULDN'T KEEP LIVING HERE IF I WERE YOU. IT ISN'T SAFE.


AFTER THAT, IT SOUNDED LIKE SHE WAS HAVING FUN EVERY DAY.
BUT THEN SHE SAID SHE'D MADE A FRIEND.
...AT FIRST HER LETTERS WERE ALWAYS VERY ANXIOUS.
WHEN MY LITTLE SISTER STARTED MAGIC SCHOOL...
...OH. I SEE.
SHE MEANT YOU, HM?
SHE ALWAYS TOLD ME YOU WERE AN AMAZING PERSON.
HUH?

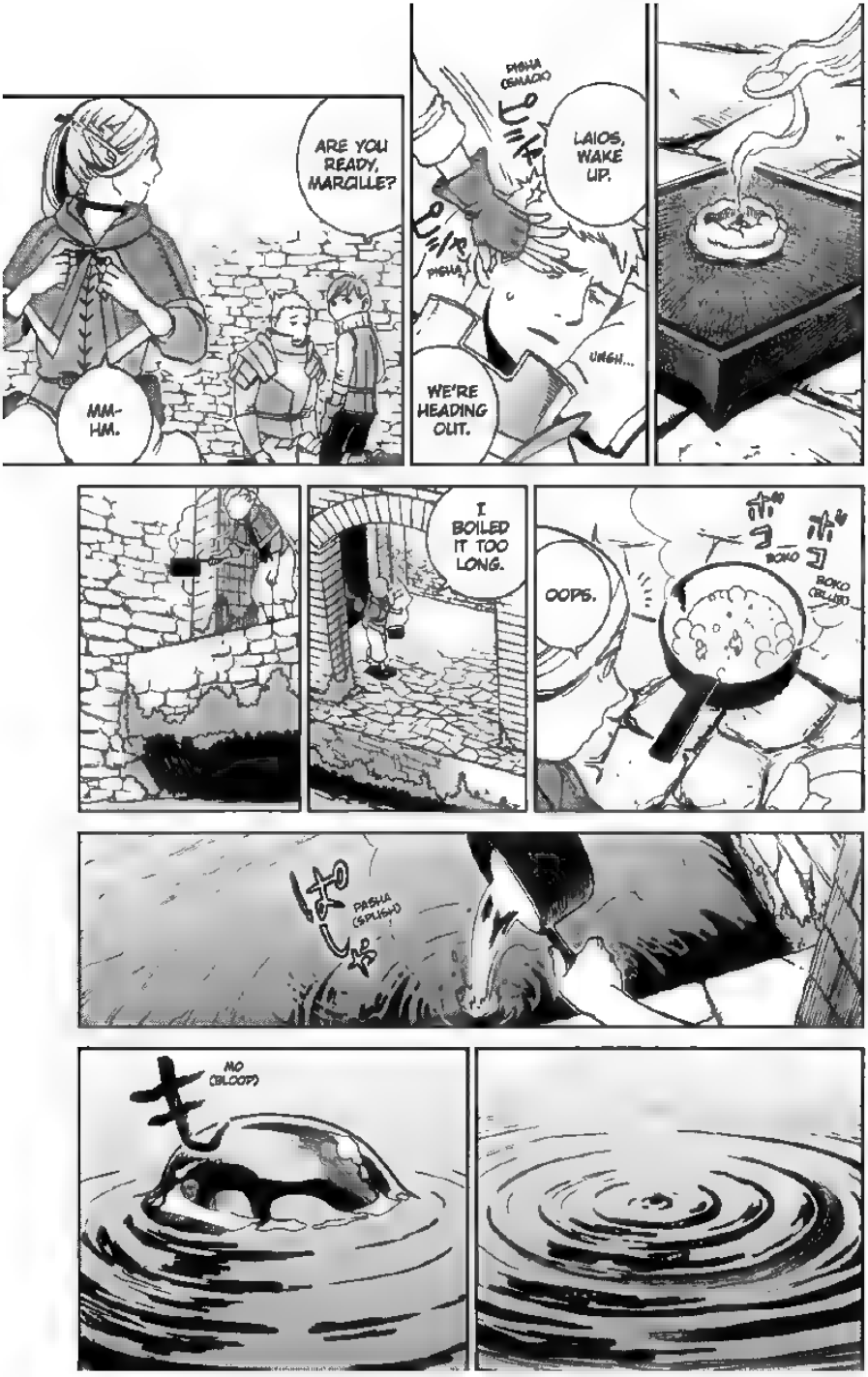

HE DOES A GREAT DOG IMPRESSION.
NYARU (GRIND...)
WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT HIM?
SHE DID, HUH?
...SHE BRAGGED ABOUT YOU TOO, LAIOS.
SHE SAID SHE RESPECTED YOU.
...I GUESS THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE RUNNING ON ABOUT THINGS LIKE THAT.
WELL...
COME ON, COME ON! IF YOU'RE AWAKE, GET UP ALREADY!
WE HAVE TO HURRY AND RESCUE FALIN!

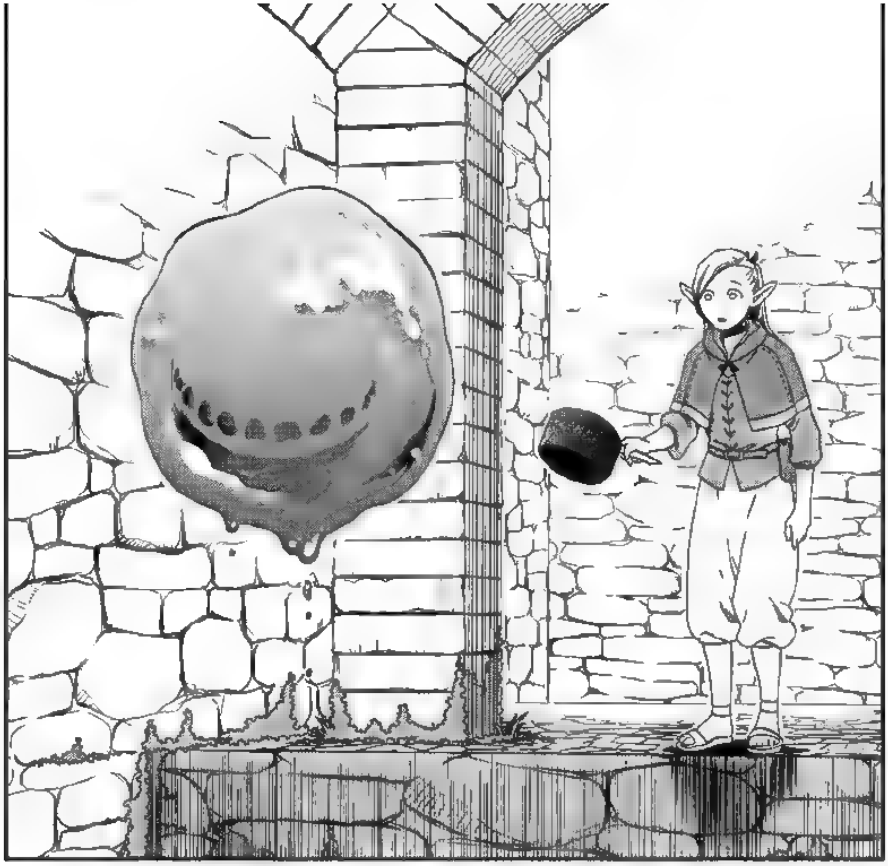

18. Grilled Meat

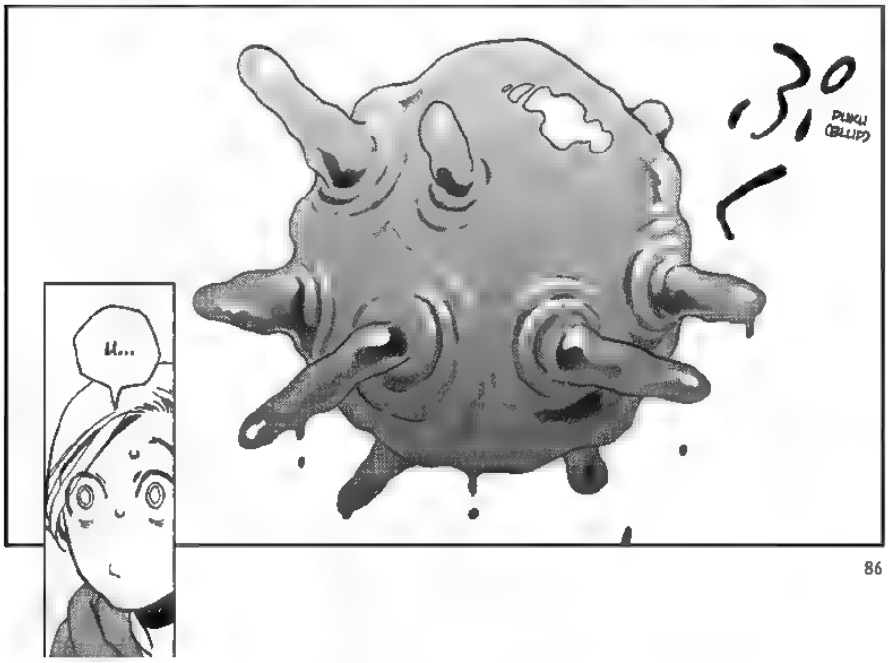

ZZZZ...
I DOUBT THE DRAGON'S JUST SITTING THERE...
...BUT THEY DON'T MOVE AROUND ALL THAT MUCH.
THIS IS WHERE THE ORCS SAID THEY SAW THE RED DRAGON.
WE SHOULD BE THERE IN TWO DAYS.
RIGHT NOW, WE'RE HERE.
WHEN THIS CANDLE'S GONE, WAKE LAIOS UP.
TAKE CARE OF ANY BUSINESS NOW.
IT'LL BE A WHILE BEFORE OUR NEXT BREAK.
I WANT TO CAMP A MAXIMUM OF TWO MORE TIMES.
ONCE HALFWAY THERE, AND ONCE RIGHT BEFORE THE DRAGON.


...MAKE IT QUICK.
WHERE?
HERE, IN THE CORNER.
I WANT TO TAKE A SPONGE BATH.
THERE WE GO.
FUTSU (BUBBLE)
FUTSU
GARI (SCRITCH)
GARI
IT'S FINE. I'M KEEPING MY CLOTHES ON. JUST STAY HERE.
IT'S DANGEROUS OUT THERE
OH, I SEE.
OKAY, WE'LL BE OUTSIDE.
HUH?

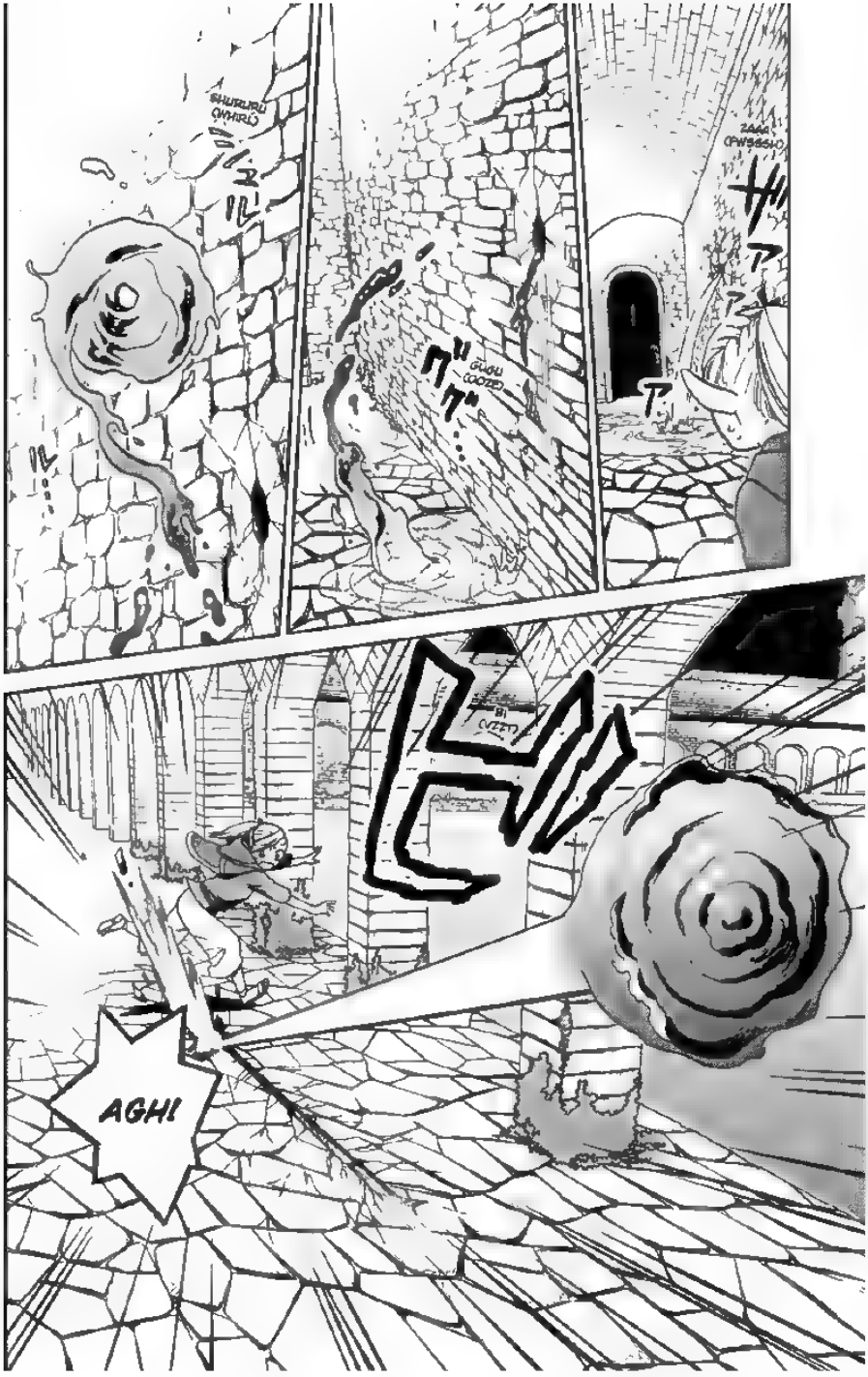

IT WAS EASIER BEFORE, WHEN OUR GENDER RATIO WAS EQUAL..
NO, THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM, IS IT?
SHOULD I HAVE STUDIED ILLUSION MAGIC OR SOMETHING?
MMM...
MOSO (SHUF)
THEY'RE BEING EXTRA-CAREFUL AROUND ME
WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE FALIN IS.
NO!
DOES IT REALLY HAVE TO BE NOW?
...WE'VE GOT TO MAKE A LIVING TOO, Y'KNOW.
SORRY, BUT...
WE'RE OUT.
BIKU (PUNCH)
GASHAN (SPLASH)
I THOUGHT WE WERE A TEAM!
JUST REMEMBERING MAKES ME MAD.
GASSHI (SCRUB)
GASSHI


ARE YOU READY, MARCILLE?
MM-HM.
PISHA OSHAKIO
LAIOS, WAKE UP.
PISHA
UNGH...
WE'RE HEADING OUT.
I BOILED IT TOO LONG.
OOPS.
BOKO
BOKO (BLUB)
PASHA (SPLISH)
NO (BLOOP)




PUKU (BLUP)
U...


UNDINE!
MY STAFF!
GORO
GORO GORO
HUH!?
WHAT'S GOING —?


SHURURU (WHIRL)
ZAAA (PHSSSH)
GUGU (GOOD)
BI (VZZT)
AGH!


RGH!
I CAN'T GET...
ARGH. WATER-WALK ISN'T...
BWAH!
SWURLGU


MAR-CILLE!
YOU'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH IT ON YOUR OWN!
SHOULD I START ONE?
FIRE...
WE NEED FIRE.
WEAPONS WON'T WORK.
THE WATER'S MOVING.
EASY FOR YOU TO SAY...
PLEASE LET THIS HIT IT.


ドカン
(どかん)


CHAPON
CSPLISH
!
BA
CTURND


MAR-CILLE!
QUIT SPACING OUT!
I...
I KNOW.
DON'T COME NEAR THE WATER.
(A) (TUP)
TA
TA
WATER-WALK IS WEARING O—
CHUN (ZZZIP)


SHURU (WHIRL)
NO! DON'T STOP!
MAR-CILLE!
HAH ...
AH!
SHURU
SHURU
GHK!
TOPU (SPLASH)
CHAPU (SPLISH)
TOPON (SPLOOSH)
DO (SLAM)
DID SHE GET IT?
MARCILLE, RUN!
NO. IT ESCAPED INTO THE WATER.


DOON
WHERE IS IT!?
DON (BOOM)
WHERE?
YORO (TOTTER)
I CAN'T GET AWAY ON THIS LEG.
BI (VEZZ)
AH!
BO (BOOM)
ZAAAA (SHHH)


PIRAN (YELLING?)
ノ○メ-ん
HE WON'T MAKE IT IN TIME.
AAAAH, I CAN'T WATCH! SHE'S SO SLOW!
FWOO! FWOO! FWOO!
HOLD ON! I'LL GET A FIRE GOING!
I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING WITH THIS NEXT ATTACK.
MY MANA'S ALMOST GONE.
HFF!
HFF!
LOOK CLOSELY...
WHERE IS IT HIDING!?
OH!
SOMETHING SOME SORT OF CHANGE
GU (PFFT)
OP


IT HAS MY BLOOD IN IT, SO THE COLOR'S DIFFERENT!
THERE ...!
MARCILLE!


GA (WHUMP)


H-HEY.
LOOK...



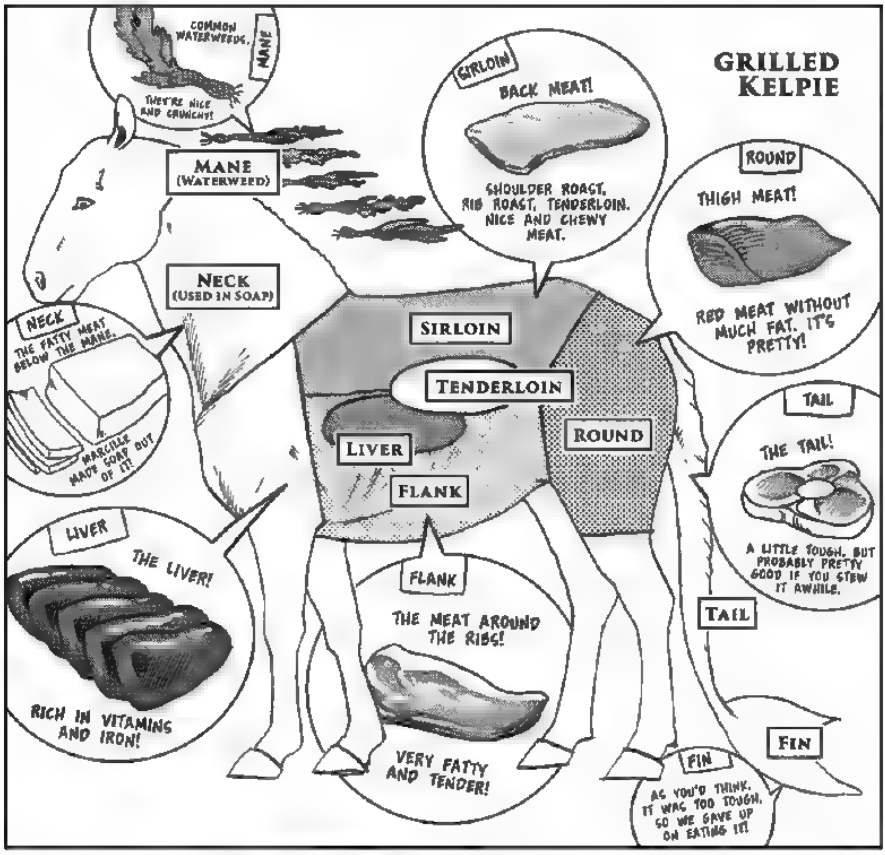

GO (WHUMP)
PUCH (SQUISH)

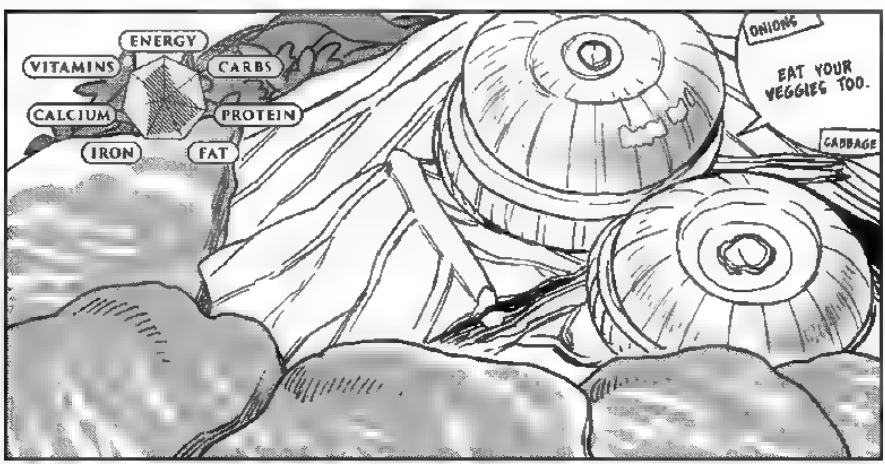



...RUUUUN!
UP!
RUN UP!
チュン
CHUN (SKIP)
CHUN
チュン
FOR NOW, LET'S...


I STOPPED THE BLEEDING...
...BUT I'M LOW ON MANA AND BLOOD.
I CAN'T HEAL IT ALL THE WAY.
MARCILLE, HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
HM...
I'M SORRY.
DON'T APOLOGIZE. LIE DOWN FOR A BIT.
LET'S WAIT FOR OTHER ADVENTURERS TO PASS BY.
IF THEY HAVE A HEALER OR MAGIC USER...
WE CAN'T TAKE A MAGIC USER WHO'S OUT OF MANA ANY FARTHER IN.
WITHOUT WATER-WALK, WE CAN'T GO ANYWHERE ANYWAY...
MANA IS BLAH, BLAH, BLAH...
I WISH I'D TAKEN FALIN'S HEALING MAGIC LESSONS MORE SERIOUSLY.
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
FOODS THIS NUTRITIOUS ARE RARE IN THE DUNGEON.
I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT NUTRITION.
MEAT...
THE BEST WE'VE GOT IS KELPIE MEAT.
WE'D BETTER HOPE THEY'RE ACTUALLY STARVING.
THERE'S NO WAY WE'LL GET A CONVENIENT GOOD SAMARITAN.
WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING WE CAN TRADE.


IT'S GRILLING TIME!
IRON...
THAT MEANS...
IS THERE ANY LIVER IN THERE?
AH!
OF COURSE.
THE IRON IN LIVER IS QUALITY STUFF.
ガシャーン
GASHAAN (CLANG)


GRILLED KELPIE
COMMON WATERWEEDS.
MANE
THEY'RE NICE AND CRUNCHY!
MANE (WATERWEED)
NECK (USED IN SOAP)
NECK
THE FATTY MEAT BELOW THE MANE.
MARGILLE MADE SOAP OUT OF IT!
SIRLOIN
BACK MEAT!
SHOULDER ROAST, RIB ROAST, TENDERLOIN. NICE AND CHEWY MEAT.
TENDERLOIN
LIVER
FLANK
ROUND
THIGH MEAT!
RED MEAT WITHOUT MUCH FAT. IT'S PRETTY!
TAIL
THE TAIL!
A LITTLE TOUGH, BUT PROBABLY PRETTY GOOD IF YOU STEW IT AWHILE.
LIVER
THE LIVER!
RICH IN VITAMINS AND IRON!
FLANK
THE MEAT AROUND THE RIBS!
VERY FATTY AND TENDER!
FIN
AS YOU'D THINK, IT WAS TOO TOUGH, SO WE GAVE UP ON EATING IT!


ENERGY
VITAMINS
CARBS
CALCIUM
PROTEIN
IRON
FAT
ONIONS
EAT YOUR VEGGIES TOO.
CABBAGE


CAN YOU SIT UP?
WE MADE SOME-THING GOOD.
MAR-CILLE...
MAR-CILLE.
JUU (SIZZLE)
SORRY, MAR-CILLE. I GUESS I'M EATING FIRST.
WHERE'S THE LIVER?
YOU'VE GOT TO COOK ORGAN MEAT REAL WELL..
ROUND STEAK.

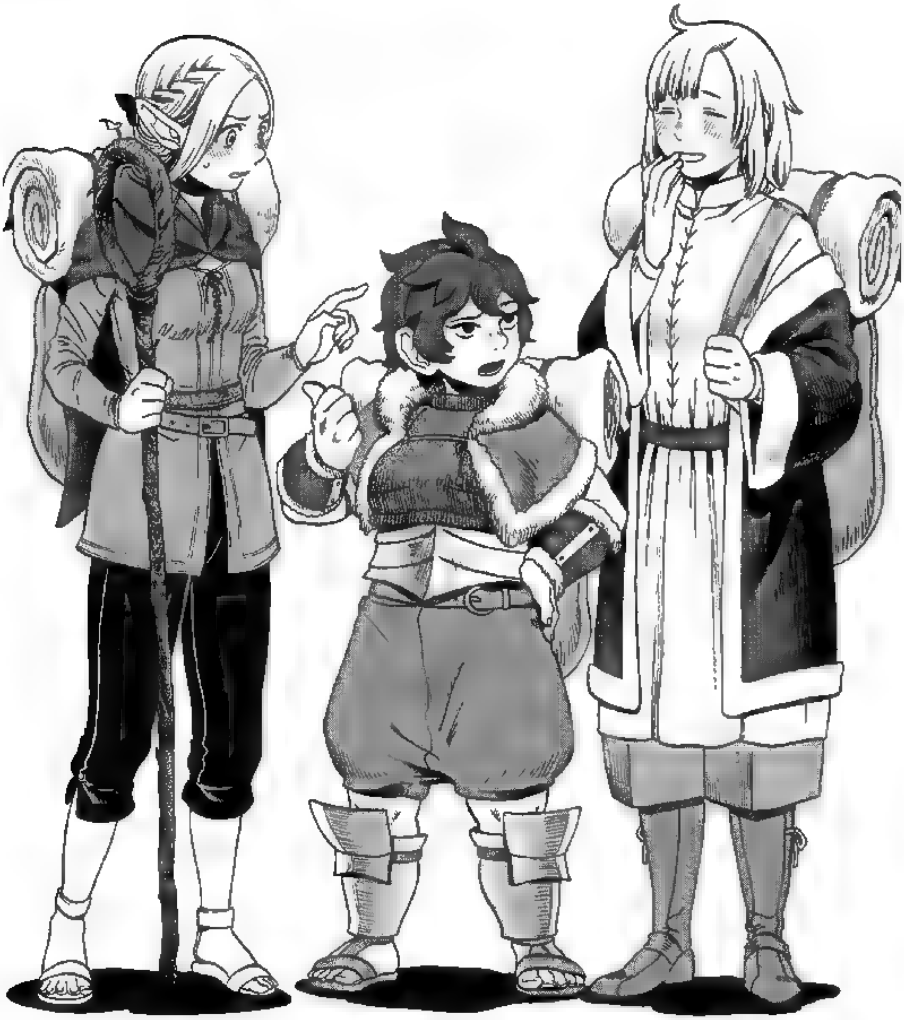

DOES IT TASTE MORE LIKE HORSE OR A MARINE MAMMAL?
I'VE NEVER EATEN EITHER, SO I CAN'T TELL. UNFORTU-NATELY.
HMM. IT'S A BIT STRINGY, BUT IT'S GOOD.
YEAH. THE FLAVOR'S REALLY MILD.
MARCILLE, THE LIVER'S READY.
THE FAT'S SWEET.
NICE AND SOFT.
FLANK.
HERE YOU GO. LIVER.
IT MELTS IN YOUR MOUTH.
I LIKE THIS.
TENDER-LOIN.
HERE, MARCILLE.
IT HAS AN INTER-ESTING FLAVOR.
IT'S GOOD.
EAT YOUR VEGGIES TOO.
TAIL.


MOGU (CHEW)
モグ
MOGU
モグ
MORE LIVER.
IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S FEELING A BIT BETTER.
GAKU (SLUMP)
ガク
LIVER'S AMAZING.
LET ME EAT OTHER PARTS TOO!!
LUH ...
"LUH"?
I STILL THINK THAT WAS THE BEST MOVE.
WHY DID WE STUFF THE BASILISK WITH THE MANA HERBS?
IF ONLY THERE WAS MEAT THAT RECOVERED THAT.
THAT ASIDE...
...WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT HER LOW MANA?




KUN (SNIFF)
KUN


WHAT KIND OF IDIOT WOULD BE GRILLING MEAT HERE?
LIKE THEY'RE WHAT? HUHN!
DO YOU SMELL THAT?
IT'S COMING FROM DOWN THERE.
WHAT KIND OF SMELL IS IT?
GRILLING MEAT, MAYBE?
IT'S LIKE SOMEBODY'S COOKING




THEY'VE NOTICED US TOO.
THEY'RE COMING CLOSER...
KOTSU (TAKK)
KACHA (CLANK)
I HEAR FOOT-STEPS.
ABOUT FIVE PEOPLE... THEY'RE ARMED.
KOTSU
AH!
HM?
HOLD IT. THAT VOICE...
WE DON'T INTEND TO FIGHT YOU!
WE'RE JUST CAMP-ING.
YOU'RE NOT CRIMINALS WHO CAN'T GO BACK ABOVE-GROUND, ARE YOU?
HOW ABOUT THAT...YOU REA..LY ARE GRILLING MEAT.
KOTSU


NAMARI!?
IF IT AIN'T LAIOS!
WHOA! I KNEW IT!
FRIENDS OF YOURS?
OLD COMPANIONS!
HEY! LONG TIME NO SEE.
WELL, MAYBE JUST A WEEK OR SO.
THOSE OVER THERE ARE THE TWINS, KAKA AND KIKI.
I DUNNO WHICH IS WHICH.
THEY'RE SOMEBODY'S RED SCHOLARS.
THEY PAY REAL WELL.
WHOOPS. LEMME INTRODUCE YOU.
THESE ARE MY CURRENT EMPLOYERS.
MR. AND MRS. TANSU.


Y-YOU LITTLE...
GAKU (SLUMP)
...NGH.
I ABAN-DONED HER?
YOU TOLD ME TO WALK INTO THE JAWS OF DEATH WITH YOU FOR FREE, AND I SAID NO, THAT'S ALL.
NAMARI, YOU...
YOU ABANDON FALIN, AND THEN YOU...
DON'T PUSH YOURSELVES.
IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO YOU GUYS...
...FALIN WOULDN'T BE HAPPY ABOUT IT EITHER.
MARCILLE, YOU REST.
OH, COME ON.
KELPIE MEAT...?
NO-BODY NEEDS THAT!
IN EX-CHANGE FOR...?
AH!
OH, RIGHT!
IS ONE OF YOU A HEALER?
WE'D LIKE YOU TO TREAT OUR FRIEND.


WE'RE GOING, NAMARI.
PRACTICING CHARITY IN THE DUNGEON WILL TRIP YOU UP.
GOOD GRIEF.
EVEN THE CORPSES WE FOUND ON THE WAY HAD MONEY TO COVER THEIR RESURRECTION...
YOU'RE GOING BEYOND THIS POINT?
IT'S DANGEROUS. THERE'S AN UNDINE ROAMING AROUND.
CHIRA (GLANCE)
チラ…
AN UNDINE ...?
HA HA.
SO YOU ANGERED A WATER SPIRIT, DID YOU?
HMPH.
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE US.
WE GNOMES HAVE LIVED WITH GODS AND SPIRITS SINCE ANTIQUITY.
TO US, THE SPIRITS ARE NEIGHBORS. THEY'RE NOTHING TO FEAR.


HEARKEN TO MY VOICE.
O GREAT SPIRIT OF THE WATER!
UN-DINE!
HM?
AH, THAT WON'T DO.
PUKU (BLOOP)
CHUN (ZZZZIP)
GRANDPA TANSU!


NAMARI DIED!
YEAH...
I'LL FIX IT.
N-NAMARI!
IT DIDN'T WORK.
HUFF!
WHEEZE!
HUFF!


FU
OFF


YOU USE ME AS A SHIELD EVERY SINGLE LOUSY TIME!!
YES, AND THAT'S WHY YOUR PAY IS SO GENER-OUS!!
YOU DAMN OLD FART!
THE DEAD DON'T COME BACK TO LIFE.
NOT OUTSIDE THE DUNGEON, NO, BUT...
YOU'RE AGAINST REVIVIFI-CATION?
IT'S NOT A PLEASANT THING TO WATCH.
RESUR-RECTION MAGIC, HM?
OF ALL MAGIC, THAT'S THE SORT I LIKE LEAST.
HE'S RIGHT!
THAT'S NOT NORMAL, LAIOS.
IT'S NOT NOR-MAL.
...IT'S NORMAL HERE.


THANKS TO THAT, NO MATTER HOW GRAVE THE BODY'S WOUNDS, THE SOUL ISN'T SET FREE.
JUST REPAIR THE DAMAGE, AND THEY'RE GOOD AS NEW.
IT BINDS PEOPLE'S SOULS TO THEIR BODIES.
THIS DUNGEON IS UNDER AN EXTREMELY POWERFUL SPELL.
...IT ISN'T THAT THE DEAD COME BACK TO LIFE.
DEATH ITSELF IS FORBIDDEN HERE.
IF YOU ASK ME...
I CAME TO EXAMINE MAGIC CIRCLES NEAR HERE.
...BUT AS YOU CAN SEE, MY GUARD IS A BIT UNRELI-ABLE.
THAT SAID...
...I'M RE-SEARCHING ANCIENT CURSES LIKE IT.
WHAT AN ABOMINABLE CURSE.


ALL RIGHT.
!
IF YOU'LL AID MY INVESTIGATION, I'LL HEAL YOUR FRIEND.
YOU STAY HERE IN CASE SOMETHING HAPPENS TO ME.
I WANTED TO LOOK AT THE OTHER TOWER FIRST, BUT...
...THE UNDINE IS IN THE WAY, SO WE'LL START WITH THIS ONE.
WE ARE HERE
I'M STUDYING TWO LOCATIONS.
UNDINE
ONE IS UNDER THIS TOWER, AND THE OTHER IS UNDER THE TOWER OPPOSITE US.
MAGIC CIRCLES
HOW ARE YOU FEELING, MARCILLE?
YOU DON'T LOOK SO GREAT.
HANG ON JUST A LITTLE LONGER, ALL RIGHT?
SENSHI AND I WILL GO, THEN.
CHILCHUCK, YOU STAY HERE WITH MARCILLE.


ELF CHARAC-TERS, HM? ...WHAT ATROCIOUS HAND-WRITING.
IT'S AROUND HERE.
THE ROOTS ARE IN THE WAY.
CLEAR THEM.


LIKE I KEEP TELLING YOU—
"USE A STORE-BOUGHT ONE," RIGHT? I KNOW.
LAIOS...
YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER CREEPY SWORD, HUH?
YOU! QUIT NEGLECTING YOUR WEAPON!
I FEEL BAD FOR YOUR AX!
AND THEN...
STEER CLEAR OF SHOPS WITH HALF-FOOT CLERKS.
AND DON'T REUSE YOUR SCABBARD!
A DWARF-FORGED ONE.
WHEN IT COMES TO HANDLING WEAPONS, THERE'S NO ONE I TRUST MORE.
NO.
YOU THINK I'M BEING ANNOYING, DON'T YOU?
HEY.

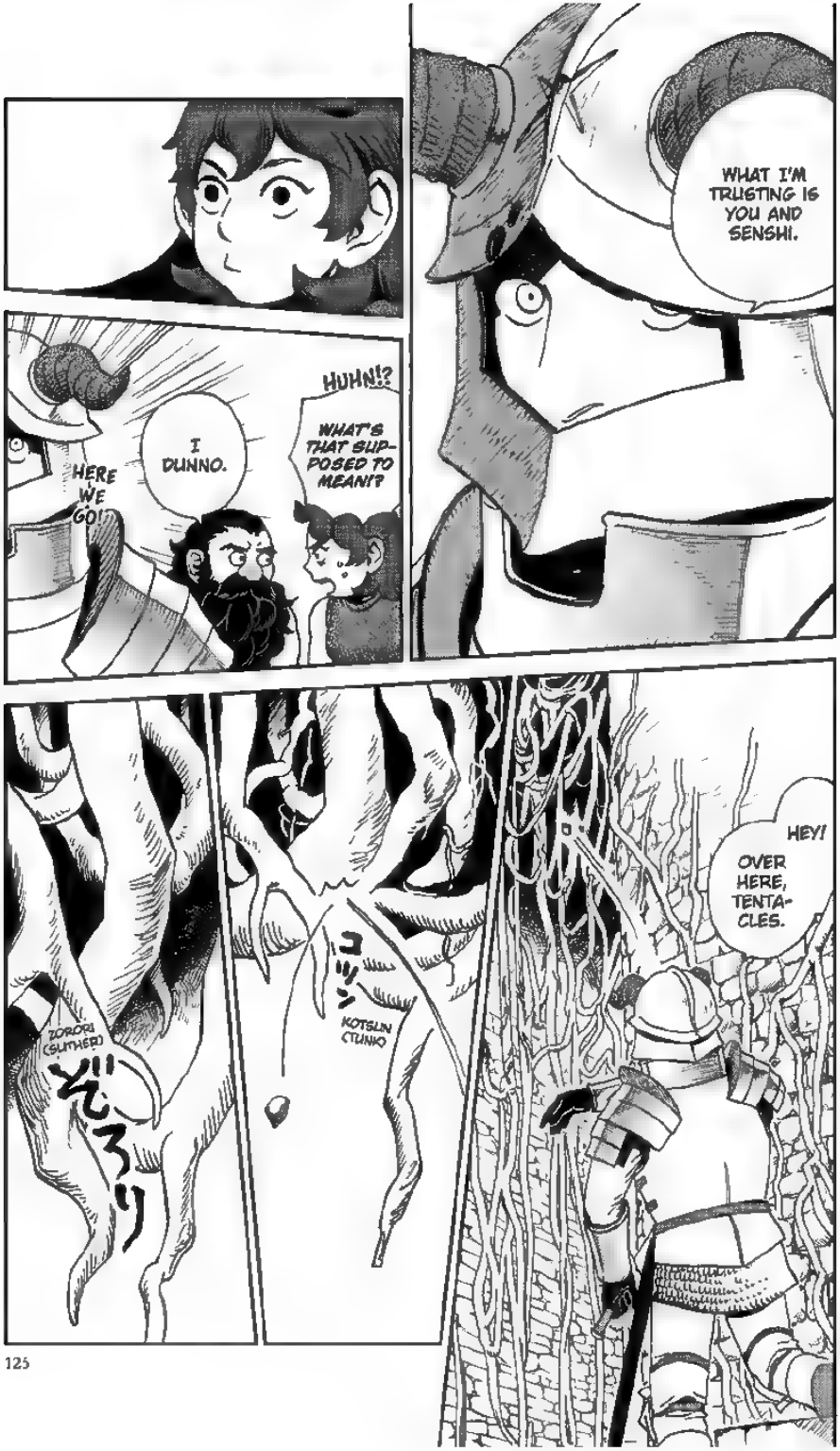

KATA (RATTLE)
カタ…
STAY BACK.
WHAT IS IT?
THERE'S A MONSTER LURKING DOWN THERE.
THEN KILL IT.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT OR WHERE IT IS.
HUH!? THEN HOW DO YOU KNOW THERE'S A MONSTER?
I...I JUST DO.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN!?
MR. TANSU.
IT'S BETTER TO TRUST LAIOS WHEN HE'S LIKE THAT.


I CAN'T INDULGE A BASELESS HUNCH.
IF IT'S LURKING, WE'LL JUST DRIVE IT INTO THE OPEN.
BASHU (THUD)
SHIN (SILENCE)


KYUPA (SWIP)
AHH!
I SEE! TENTACLES, RIGHT!
THIS IS NO TIME TO BE IM-PRESSED!
BATA
BATA GUGU
GYUN GYUN!


WAH!
KIKI! KIKI! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?
HOO BOY.
KIKI!
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING!? KILL THE MONSTER! HURRY!
UH, MY WEAPON WON'T REACH. OBVIOUSLY.
DO SOME-THING, QUICK!


TENTACLES' SKIN
OTHER CREATURES' SKIN
WHEN THEY TOUCH YOUR SKIN, THEY SHOOT POISON BARBS AND PARALYZE YOU.
IF WE GET CAUGHT, IT'S MORE LIKELY THAT WE'LL DIE.
YOU ALSO GET AWFUL WELTS.
COULD WE LET IT CATCH US AND GET CLOSE TO IT THAT WAY?
TENTACLES ARE NEMATOCYSTIC.
...OKAY.
IN THAT CASE, I'LL GO.
SENSHI, COULD I BORROW YOUR HELMET?
IF YOU DIE, I'LL RESURRECT YOU.
NOW LOOK, GEEZER...
SERIOUSLY. DON'T.
YOU CAN'T TRUST THE SUCCESS RATE ON THOSE RESURRECTION SPELLS.
IT'S FINE.
HEY, LAIOS...
IT'S DAMP.


WHAT I'M TRUSTING IS YOU AND SENSHI.
HUHN!?
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN!?
I DUNNO.
HERE WE GO!
HEY! OVER HERE, TENTACLES.
KOTSUN (TUNK)
ZORORI (SLITHER)


ZUKI
ズキ
I KNEW IT. THEY EVEN STING THROUGH CLOTHES.
OW, OW, OW, OW, OW!
IT'S GETTING HARD TO MOVE MY ARMS ALREADY.
ZUKI (THROB)
ズキ
BYUN (WHIZZ)
ビュ
GURU (WRAP)
ぐるっ
WAKU (GIDDY)
ワク
LAIOS, WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
AT THE BASE! GET THE BASE!
GISHI (SAND)
ギシ
GISH!
ギシ!
...I CAN'T INFLICT LETHAL DAMAGE FROM HERE.
BUT...
BUCHI (SNAP)
ブチ
I GOT IT!!
ZU...ZAA... (SKIID)
ズザザア
DA (DASH)
だっ
PORO (DROP)
ポロ..

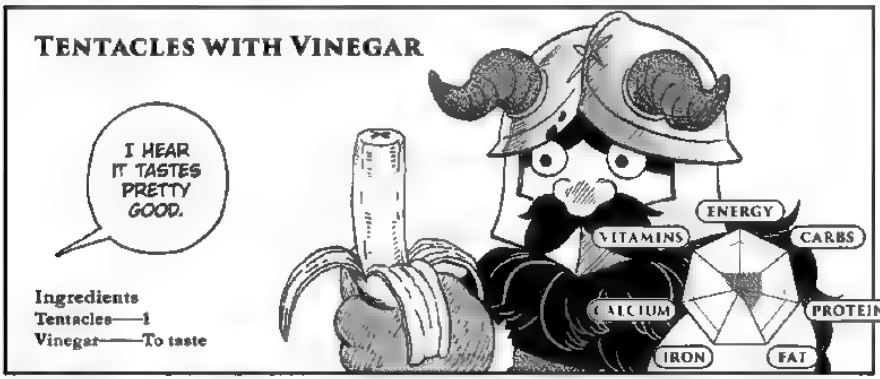

DAM-MIT!
SO THAT'S WHAT HE MEANT!
POI (TOSS)
ポイ
グチ
グチ
BUCHI (SNAP)
BUCHI
YEAH, SURE, GIMME THE TOUGHEST JOB!


BA (RELEASE)
KIKI!
DOSA (THUMP)
DOSU (THUMP)
LAIOS, YOU OKAY!?
...GUESS NOT, HUH?


HUH!?
I'LL GET YOU HEALED RIGHT UP.
DEAR ME. KIKI?
WHAT ON EARTH HAP-PENED?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
YEEG!
SORRY. I'M GOING TO TAKE A WHILE.
HMM. THIS IS A BIT TRICKY.


WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH THIS?
WAIT A MINUTE. I'LL IDENTIFY THE SPECIES.
I GOT STUNG BY TENTACLES.
ISN'T YOUR FACE KIND OF... DIFFERENT?
WHEN I TORE IT OFF, IT PARALYZED MY HAND. I CAN'T LET GO.
YOU'VE GOT A HAND LIKE A GNOME THERE, GUY.
AGH!
WHAT ARE YOU HOLDING!?
IVY TENTACLES, HM?
IT LOOKS LIKE A PLANT VINE OR ROOT...
ABOUT FIVE CENTIMETERS ACROSS AND TWENTY METERS LONG.
A PALE BROWNISH GREEN. NO SPOTS.
LET ME SEE IT.


IF YOU SPLIT IT LENGTHWISE, YOU CAN PEEL OFF THE OUTER SKIN AND ITS BARBS.
SCORE AN "X" INTO THE CUT SURFACE.
IF YOU RINSE IT WITH VINEGAR, YOU CAN CURB THE STINGING BARBS A BIT.
IT DOES THE OPPOSITE ON SOME SPECIES, SO BE CAREFUL.


TENTACLES WITH VINEGAR
I HEAR IT TASTES PRETTY GOOD.
Ingredients
Tentacles——1
Vinegar——To taste
ENERGY
CARBS
PROTEIN
FAT
IRON
CALCIUM
VITAMINS


PAKURI CHUNCHO
IF THAT'S THE ONLY WAY, THEN THERE'S NO HELP FOR IT.
HUH?
ARE YOU SCREWING WITH US?
NO, THIS IS...
IT'S JUST TRIVIA ...


I BET YOU'RE IMAG-INING THAT.
BITTER
I THINK DIFFERENT AREAS TASTE DIFFER-ENT!
FISHY
SWEET
FAINTLY SWEET
HM...
MOGU (CHEW)
もぐ
THIS IS...!
LET ME HAVE SOME TOO!!
I SEE. NOT BAD.
COOKED PROPERLY, IT WILL BE BETTER.
ALL I TASTE IS VINEGAR.
NO, IT'S TRUE!
TRY SOME.
SLIMY TOO. WHAT...
WHAT IS THIS?
.....
IT'S SOUR.
WANT TO TRY SOME, MARCILLE?
HUH? WHAT IS IT?


NO, NO, I DON'T NEED IT!!
I'M NOT HARD UP FOR FOOD!
HERE I RECOMMEND THIS BIT.
HUH!?
HERE, NAMARI. YOU TOO.
I KNOW IT'S TARO ROOT
TELL ME IT'S TARO ROOT.
STEW IT? MAYBE MASH AND GRILL IT?
NICE.
.....
WITH SPICES, WE CAN GET RID OF THE FISHINESS.
IT COULD PAIR TOLERABLY WELL WITH VEGETABLES.
...IT'S COOKABLE.
BUT IT'S GOOD.
IT'S NOT GOOD, BUT...
IT'S OUT!!
スルリ
SURURI (SLIP)


START WITH HER, IF YOU WOULD.
THAT'S A HUGE HELP.
MY APOLOGIES.
I'LL TREAT YOU NOW.


HUH?
BWEH HEH! WHAT'S WITH YOUR FACE?
THANKS, LAI...
THANK NAMARI, NOT ME.
AHHHH!
BEING HEALTHY IS THE BEST!!
HUH?
NO, UH...
THAT WAS MY FIRST TIME USING ONE.
DOSU
THAT WAS AN INCREDIBLE SHOT.
TO THINK SHE'D KILL IT WITH ONE BOLT!
WE'RE LUCKY YOU'RE GOOD WITH A CROSS-BOW, NAMARI.
NAMARI...
.....


YOU'RE VERY WELCOME.
SEE? PEOPLE WORK BETTER WHEN THEY'RE NOT WORKING FOR FREE.
FOR NOW, THANK YOU FOR HELPING US.
THE FALIN MATTER ASIDE.
IT'S ALL OVER AND DONE WITH.
NOW, NOW, YOU TWO.
HONESTLY! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU!!
...WHO'S ACTING LIKE IT'S SOMEBODY ELSE'S PROBLEM!?
SO YOU'RE THE LEADER? THAT MUST BE ROUGH.
WASN'T TRYING TO...
NO...
AND ANYWAY, WHY ARE YOU THE ONE...
NO IT ISN'T!
CHAPTER 19:-THE END-

# 20. Stew




IT'S LOOKING THIS WAY.
DO YOU THINK IT'S STILL MAD?
ARGH, WHAT A BLUNDER.
THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH ELVES.
YEAH. ELVES. SHEESH.
I TOSSED OUT SOME WATER I'D BOILED, AND I GUESS I HIT IT...
WHAT DID YOU DO TO GET A SPIRIT THAT RILED UP?
I'VE NEVER TAKEN AN ATTACK THAT FIERCE BEFORE.
IS THERE A WAY TO CALM SPIRITS WITHOUT USING MAGIC?
WE REALLY HAVE TO GET THROUGH HERE.
MY RACE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!


SINGLE SPIRITS LIVE ABOUT ONE WEEK.
A WEEK...
WHEN THE CURRENT INDIVIDUALS REACH THE END OF THEIR NATURAL LIVES...
...THE GENERATION SHIFT SHOULD QUELL THE HOSTILITY.
THAT'S SIMPLE. UNDINES ARE A COLLECTIVE OF MINUTE SPIRITS.
HEY. PREPARE THE RETURN SPELL.
...WE'RE HEADED BACK ABOVEGROUND.
I'LL CONTINUE MY INVESTIGATION SOME OTHER DAY.
WE CAN'T WAIT THAT LONG.
I CONCUR.
AND SO...
MR. TANSU, COULD WE ASK A FAVOR?
HM?
"THE RETURN SPELL," HE SAID.
RIGHT.
HEY, LAIOS.


NOW!? WHEN WE'VE COME THIS FAR!?
YOU'RE OUT OF MANA.
YOU'RE TELLING ME TO GO BACK ABOVE-GROUND WITH THEM!?
I HEAR THAT'S LIKE ANEMIA.
YOU SHOULD GO BACK UP WITH THE TANSUS' GROUP.
ANYWAY, REALLY, I'M JUST FINE.
I THINK MY MANA CAME BACK WHILE I WAS RESTING.
IT'S THE DAILY ACCUMU-LATION THAT—
NUTRITION DOESN'T AFFECT HOW YOU FEEL RIGHT AWAY.
TELL ME LATER, 'KAY?
BUT I'M FINE! I FEEL SO GOOD, EVEN I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
OH! IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN THAT LIVER.
LET'S JUST LEAVE HER.
SHINAA
TH-THAT'S, UH...
GUGUGU (STRAIN)
SHINNAA? (WILL?)
BUT YOUR STAFF...
IT DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE MANA RUNNING THROUGH IT LIKE USUAL.


PFFT!
PLUS, THAT AX OF YOURS...
...REALLY DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT COULD BE ANY THREAT TO A DRAGON.
BUT WHAT ARE THE REST OF YOU GONNA DO?
YOU CAN'T FIGHT A DRAGON WITH JUST TWO PEOPLE.
DON'T COUNT ME FOR THAT STUFF.
WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING AT?
I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU MAKE THAT FACE BEFORE.
TH...
THEN...
YEAH.
.....
NAMARI, YOU'VE KILLED SEVERAL DRAGONS... RIGHT?


MARCILLE?
NAMARI, PLEASE!
COME BACK TO THE PARTY!
JUST THIS ONCE, ALL RIGHT?
I'LL GET MONEY FOR YOU SOMEHOW...!
HELP LAIOS AND THE OTHERS DEFEAT THE RED DRAGON!
I WANT TO SAVE FALIN, NO MATTER WHAT!
CHU-CHUCK!
WHY...?
QUIT, MARCILLE. JUST DON'T.


ADVENTURERS ARE A TIGHT COMMUNITY.
RUMORS SPREAD BEFORE YOU CAN BLINK.
IN FACT, I EXPECT SOMEBODY TOLD YOU THAT NAMARI...
...HAD BEEN STRESSING ABOUT MONEY FOR A WHILE.
RIGHT, MR. TANSU?
YES.
SO EVEN IF WE SAY YOU HAD TO LEAVE...
SINCE IT WAS AN EMPLOYER PROBLEM.
...IT WOULDN'T LOOK GOOD TO COME BACK JUST BECAUSE WE PAID YOU TO
PEOPLE WILL START SAYING...
...THAT YOU'LL DO ANYTHING FOR MONEY.
THEY WON'T CARE ABOUT THE CIRCUMSTANCES.
WELL, I BET THERE'D STILL BE WORK, BUT...
...YOUR CLIENT DEMOGRAPHIC WOULD CHANGE.
SO DON'T EVEN TRY IT.
NOT IF YOU BOTH CARE ABOUT YOUR FUTURES.
...YOU HEARD HIM.
JUST GIVE UP, MARCILLE.


A WAY FOR ME TO GET MY MANA BACK.
WHA...
WHAT IS IT?
...NO.
THERE'S STILL A WAY.
.....
.....
DRINK...
...THE UNDINE!!
MANA HERBS ARE ACTUALLY MANDRAKES THAT WERE RAISED ON WATER SPIRITS.
SPIRITS EAT MANA TO LIVE.
GOT TURNED INTO ROAST BASILISK
THEY'RE SURE TO BE FULL OF MANA.
WHAT'S WITH THAT REACTION!?
WHERE'S ALL YOUR ENTHUSIASM THIS TIME?
SPIRITS DON'T REALLY INTEREST ME...
HUH? DRINK THAT?
BLEH.

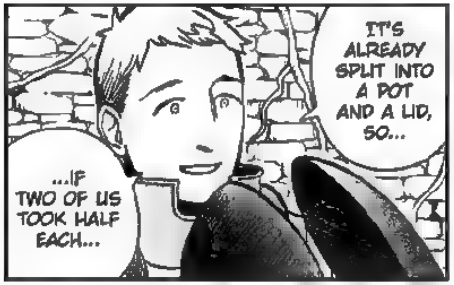

HMMM...
BUT WATER SPIRITS ARE WEAK TO HEAT, SO...
...IF WE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT...
CATCHING THAT THING IS PROBABLY GOING TO BE HARDER THAN DEFEATING IT.
YOU'RE RIGHT...
WELL, THEY ARE, BUT THAT'S...
I KNOW.
I STILL WANT TO TRY.
OR AFTER IT ATTACKS...
...GET TO THE PART THAT'S PUDDLED ON THE FLOOR...
OR POUR OIL OVER THE LAKE AND SET IT ON FIRE SO THAT IT HAS NOWHERE TO RUN?
MAYBE WE COULD ATTACK IT WITH A HOT WEAPON?
C'MON, MARCILLE, THINK.
THERE MUST BE SOME-THING...
...AND DRINK IT REAL FAST!
RIGHT...
WOULDN'T IT PUNCH HOLES IN YOU FROM THE INSIDE?

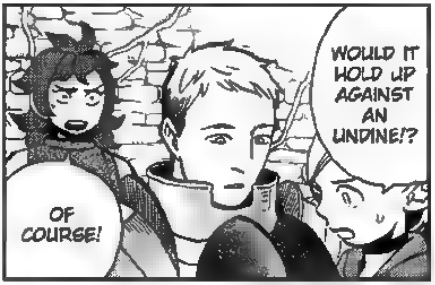

THAT THING PUNCHED THROUGH STONE PILLARS.
COULD YOU BLOCK IT WITH THAT RATTY OLD POT?
IT WOULD JUST PUT A HOLE THROUGH BOTH OF YOU.
IT'S NOT SAFE TO HEAT IT WHEN IT'S EMPTY.
IF WE HEATED THIS POT AND USED IT AS A SHIELD, WE COULD ATTACK AND DEFEND AT THE SAME TIME!
FOOD DOESN'T SCORCH AND STICK TO IT, AND IT HEATS EVENLY.
IT'S A VERY GOOD POT.
IT'S NOT A RATTY OLD POT.
IT'S A FAMILY HEIRLOOM FROM GENERATIONS BACK.
WE'VE ALWAYS TAKEN EXCELLENT CARE OF IT.
THIS COLOR.
THIS LUSTER.
THE WEIGHT, THE TEXTURE...
(BA CLUNG!)
...HOLD IT.


ADAMANT IS ONE OF THE METALS...
...THAT ALL BLACK-SMITHS FANTASIZE ABOUT...
UNBELIEV-ABLE...AS A WEAPON, IT CAN SHATTER DRAGON BONES.
AS DEFENSIVE GEAR, IT CAN STOP DRAGON FANGS.

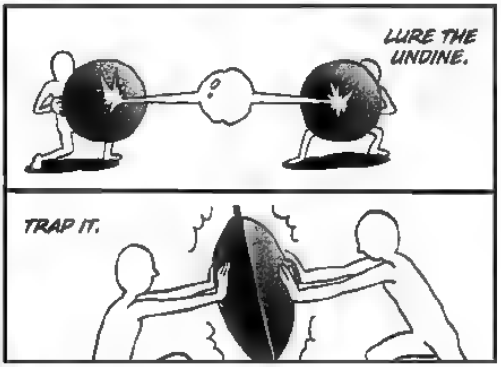

I'LL BE DAMNED! IT'S ADAMANT!!


WHADDAYA THINK YOU'RE DOING!? WHAT A WASTE!!
IT USED TO BE A SHIELD...
...BUT WE HAD NO USE FOR IT, SO...
SO WHY IS IT A POT!?


...IF TWO OF US TOOK HALF EACH...
IT'S ALREADY SPLIT INTO A POT AND A LID, SO...


OF COURSE!
WOULD IT HOLD UP AGAINST AN UNDINE!?


THEN PUT IT OVER A FIRE AND BURN IT TO DEATH...


LURE THE UNDINE.
TRAP IT.


IT'S THE ONLY WAY...!
A DWARF'S ONE THING, BUT...
...IS LAIOS STRONG ENOUGH TO PIN IT DOWN?
YEAH, BUT...
...EVEN IF THE SHIELD'S TOUGH...
...YOU SAW THAT POWER.
NAH.
LET'S GET READY TO HEAD BACK.
DOK! (BADMP)
ドキ
WORRIED?

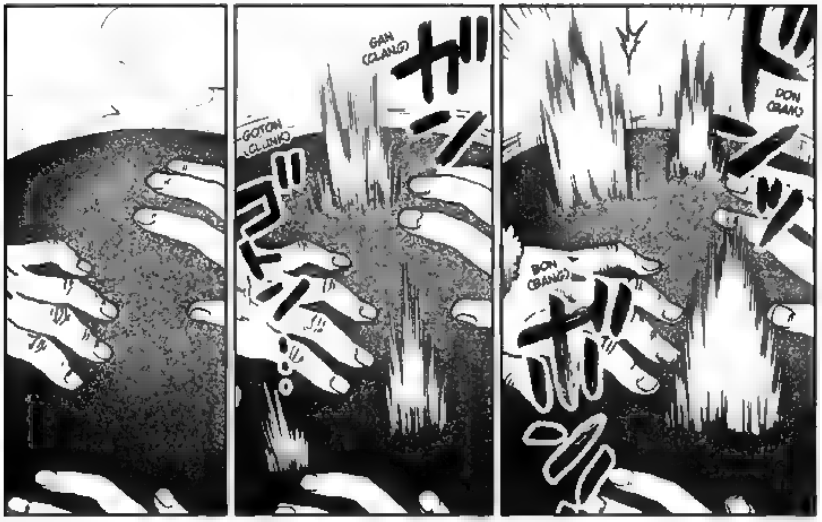

JIRI (INCH)
WHEN THE SURFACE WARPS, BRACE YOURSELF.
TRY TO SPILL AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE ...
CHUN (ZZZIP)
BOKO (GLUB)
BOKO
PAAN (SPANG)
LAIOS!


IT WILL TAKE A WHILE TO OPEN THE GATE.
GO FOR A WALK OR SOMETHING.
HAAH...
...WE MAY NEED TO FIND OURSELVES A NEW WARRIOR.
...O-OKAY.
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!
WHAT INCREDIBLE FORCE.
BIRI (TINGLE)
BIRI


ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA
PUKU (BLOOP)
GHK...
BYO (WHUD)
MOVE IT, LAIOS!


HWOO...
NOW!
AA (SSSSHH)
ZAAAA (HISSSSHH)


HOLD YOUR GROUND !!
GOOD... KEEP GOING...
GAN GGLANG!
DON GGANG!
...ON THE FIRE!!
GET IT...
GAN
GAN GGLANG!

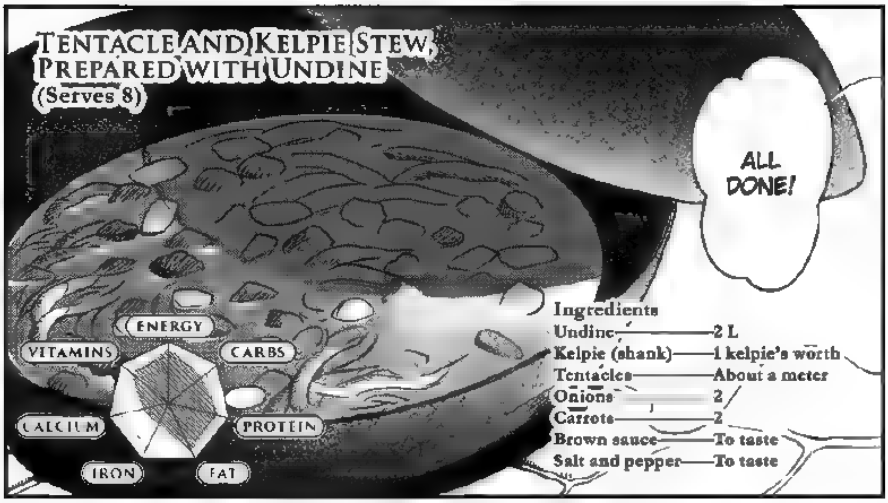

GAN (CLANG)
GOTON (CLUNK)
DON (BANG)
BON (BANG)


HOT! HOT!
HOOOT!!


YOU TOO, LAIOS... ARE YOU OKAY?
TALL-MEN ARE FLIMSIER THAN THEY LOOK.
SENSHI! NAMARI!!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!!
UNBELIEV-ABLE. WHAT MONSTROUS STRENGTH.
WOW! OH WOW!


PWAH!
CHAPO (SPLISH)
チャポ
GOKU (GULP)
ゴク
GOKUN
ゴクン
PAKA (OPEN)
パカ
CHAPU (SPLISH)
チャプ
AH!
OH, RIGHT.
YOU'LL GET WATER INTOXICATION
THAT MEANS I'VE GOT TO DRINK AS MUCH AS I CAN.
ガボ
ボゴ
...THE THING IS, THE MANA IN SPIRITS IS HARD TO ABSORB.
EVEN IF YOU GET A LOT OF IT, MOST OF IT GOES RIGHT THROUGH YOU.
GOGGU (CHUG)
ゴッグ
GABO (GULP)
ガボ
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DRINK IT ALL AT ONCE.
SFX: GOBO GABO
LET'S GET COOKING.
SENSHI ...
TAKING NUTRIENTS WITH FOODS THAT WILL AID ABSORPTION IS ONE OF THE BASICS OF NUTRITION.


SEASON KELPIE MEAT WITH SALT AND PEPPER.
SLICE THEM INTO GOOD-SIZED PIECES.
PEEL POTATOES, CARROTS, ONIONS, AND TENTACLES.
SKIM OFF ALL THE FOAM.
...THEN ADD THE ONIONS AND CARROTS AND SALT& THEM.
ADD THE MIXTURE TO THE UNDINE
BROWN THE MEAT...
(USE THE MEAT JUICES FROM THIS STEP TO MAKE BROWN SAUCE.)
STEW WELL, AND THEN...
...ADD THE POTATOES AND SPICES.


Tentacle and Kelpie Stew, Prepared with Undine
(Serves 8)
ALL DONE!
ENERGY
VITAMINS
CARBS
CALCIUM
PROTEIN
IRON
FAT
Ingredients
Undine——2 L
Kelpie (shank)——1 kelpie's worth
Tentacles——About a meter
Onions——2
Carrots——2
Brown sauce——To taste
Salt and pepper——To taste


OH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
THEY SHOULD BE BACK SOON.
HM? WHERE'S EVERYBODY ELSE?
THEY WENT TO THE TOWER ACROSS THE WAY TO EXAMINE IT.


WON'T YOU EAT WITH US BEFORE YOU GO?
THERE SURE WERE A TON OF 'EM.
I'M GLAD THEY'RE ALL CLEARED AWAY.
OH. S-SAY!
WE'RE BACK!


SENSHI HELPED WITH MOST OF IT.
YOU MADE THIS, MARCILLE?
IT LOOKS GOOD.
HERE YOU GO.
OH. RIGHT.
NEVER MIND DISHING IT OUT. JUST HURRY UP AND EAT.
GATSU (SCARF)
GATSU
AH... YAY!
IT LOOKS LIKE SOME OF MY MANA IS BACK.
GOKURI (GULP)


I WAS PREPARED TO TAKE CRITICISM FOR LEAVING THE PARTY...
...BUT I NEVER THOUGHT I'D HAVE TO SEE THEM LIKE THIS.
HAVE YOU BEEN DOING THIS FOR THE WHOLE TRIP?
UH-HUH.
YOU GUYS...
WAS IT THE POT?
IS ADAMANT A GOOD MATERIAL FOR POTS?
YUM! THE BROTH'S SOAKED INTO EVERYTHING.
CAN THINGS COOK THIS WELL IN SO LITTLE TIME?
MAYBE THIS IS PUNISHMENT TOO.
!
I COULDN'T EVEN TELL ORES APART, AND MY.....
...PREVIOUS COMPANIONS OFTEN GOT FED UP WITH ME.
I DON'T HAVE ANY INTEREST IN FORGING, AND THAT'S A FACT.
I DON'T MIND.
YOUR NAME'S SENSHI, RIGHT?
I, UH...
SORRY FOR MAKING FUN OF YOUR AX.


YOU CAN STAY HERE.
NAMARI, WE'RE GOING BACK ABOVE-GROUND.
HUH?
KOTO (TUNK)
KOTON
C'MON, AT LEAST TRY A BITE!
THE TEXTURE'S FUNNY, BUT THIS STUFF'S PRETTY GOOD.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
I'LL DO MY BEST.
...THIS ISN'T JUST ABOUT THE MONEY.
I WANT TO BE YOUR COMPANION.
I CAN'T REALLY ASK YOU TO TRUST ME, BUT...

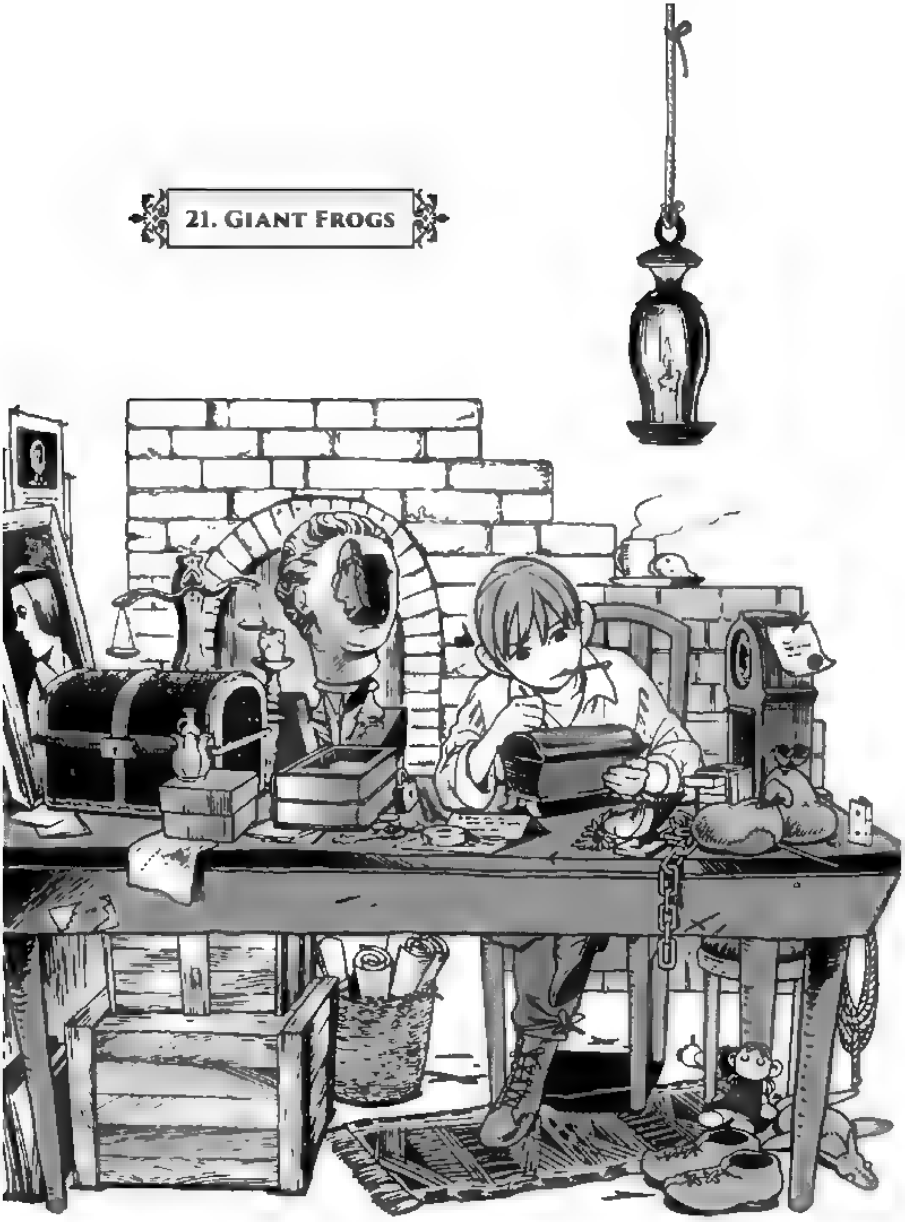



I WON'T WORK UNLESS I GET PAID IN ADVANCE.
...WHICH DOES MEAN I CAN'T DUCK OUT AT TIMES LIKE THIS...
YOU'RE THE TYPE WHO NEVER TAKES UNPAID JOBS.
OF COURSE NOT.
FRANKLY, CHILCHUCK ...
...I FIGURED YOU'D BE THE FIRST ONE OUT.

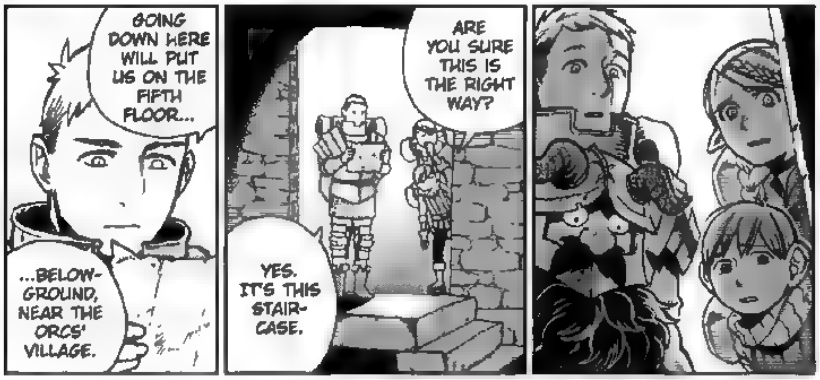

IN THIS WORLD, THE PEOPLE WHO SAY THEY DON'T NEED ANYTHING IN RETURN...
...ARE THE ONES YOU SHOULD TRUST LEAST.
LISTEN, MARCILLE.
LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING.
HUH!?
YOU STAYED BECAUSE IT WAS A JOB!?
IT WASN'T FOR FRIENDSHIP OR CAMARADERIE OR ANYTHING!?


HUH? I DIDN'T KNOW THAT.
DENSE ...
DENSE!
HE WAS CRAZY ABOUT FALIN. ENOUGH TO PROPOSE.
I BET HE'S STILL LOOKING FOR HER LIKE MAD.
WHAT'S SHURO UP TO?
WHO KNOWS?
IT SOUNDED LIKE HE HAD SOME OTHER CONNEC-TION.
...YOU TOO, NAMAR. TAKE CARE.
I KNOW FALIN'S IMPORTANT AND ALL...
...BUT MAKE SURE YOU GET BACK OUT OKAY.
WELL, YOU GUYS TOO.
LATER!
CHAPTER 20: THE END

## 21. Giant Frogs






GOING DOWN HERE WILL PUT US ON THE FIFTH FLOOR...
...BELOW-GROUND, NEAR THE ORCS' VILLAGE.
ARE YOU SURE THIS IS THE RIGHT WAY?
YES. IT'S THIS STAIR-CASE.


HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO GO DOWN THAT?
...OR THAT'S WHAT IT SAYS ON THE MAP.


IF THEY WANT TO KEEP PEOPLE AWAY, IT'S PERFECT.
YOU THINK? THIS ROAD LEADS TO THEIR VILLAGE.
THAT'S SOME REAL WELL-PLANNED HARASS-MENT.
THE ORCS MUST'VE PULLED A FAST one ON US.
HMPH.
THAT'S AMAZING. THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF TENTACLE SPECIES HERE.
COLORFUL
ZAKKU (SLASH)
ZAKU
LET'S TRY GOING DOWN FOR A BIT.
...I THINK IT WOULD BE FASTER TO TAKE A DETOUR.
IN TERMS OF TIME AND EFFORT...


GUWA (LUNGE)
MARCILLE, DON'T GET TOO CLOSE TO THE WALL.
GUI (TUG)
HAAH...
TON (BUMP)
THEY WORK WITH TRAPS TO CAUSE TROUBLE.
BEKI (SNAP)
MICHI MICHI OKRIKO
THEY COMPRESS AND BREAK DEVICES.
THEY GROW ON TREASURE CHESTS.
THEY GROW ON MIMICS, TOO?
THEY'RE A MONSTER I'D LOVE TO SEE DIE OUT, RIGHT AFTER MIMICS.
WAUGH!
ZOWAWA (SHIVER)
THESE THINGS HIDE INSIDE IT.
IT MEANS THERE ARE LOTS OF TRAPS AND DEVICES.
PLACES WITH LOTS OF TENTACLES HAVE LOTS OF CAVITIES.
SFX: GOGOGOGOGO (RUMBLE)
PRESENT...
FOR DECORATION
IF YOU DID SOMETHING ABOUT THE BARBS, I BET THEY'D BE POPULAR WITH WOMEN.
THAT'S AWFUL.
IF YOU'RE JUST LOOKING, MOST MONSTERS ARE HARMLESS.
THEY'RE ALL DIFFERENT, AND I NEVER GET TIRED OF LOOKING AT THEM.
I LIKE THEM.


...ALL RIGHT.
I BET WE'VE COME QUITE A WAYS BY NOW.
GOOOO (GOOOM)
THAT'S ODD.
THE ORCS MUST HAVE GOTTEN TO THE THIRD FLOOR THROUGH HERE.
HOW DID THEY DO IT?
KASA (RUSTLE)
SOME-THING'S THERE.
BE CARE-FUL.
SFX: KATA (RATTLE)


PAAN
СБРАНО
KEN...
WHAT WAS THAT!?
AN UNDINE ...!?


KENSUKEEE!
UGH. GROSS...
WHOA! A GIANT FROG.
AAAAAH! YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING!!
PTOO.


BO
(BOOMF)
I'LL GET IT!
YES!
DASHIN
(SNATCH)
(DOGA
(FLUSH)


BA (LEAP)
NOOOOO! AMBROSIA-AAAAA!!
(SMASH)
SHE NAMED IT THAT...?
AAAH!
YAAAGH!
SENSHI, BEHIND YOU!
MMF!
SUDA (SKAGH)




SFX: BURU (TREMBLE) BURU

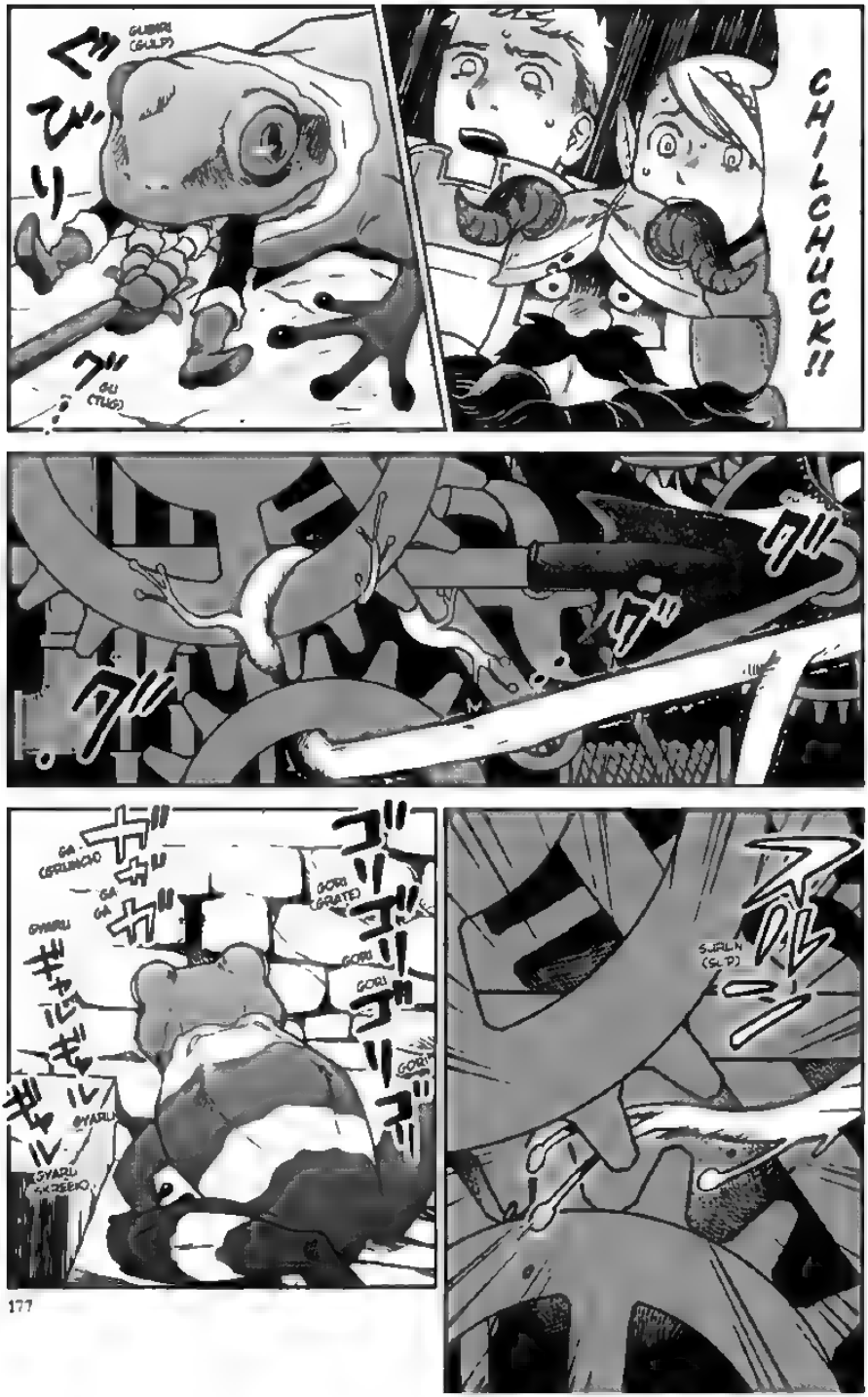


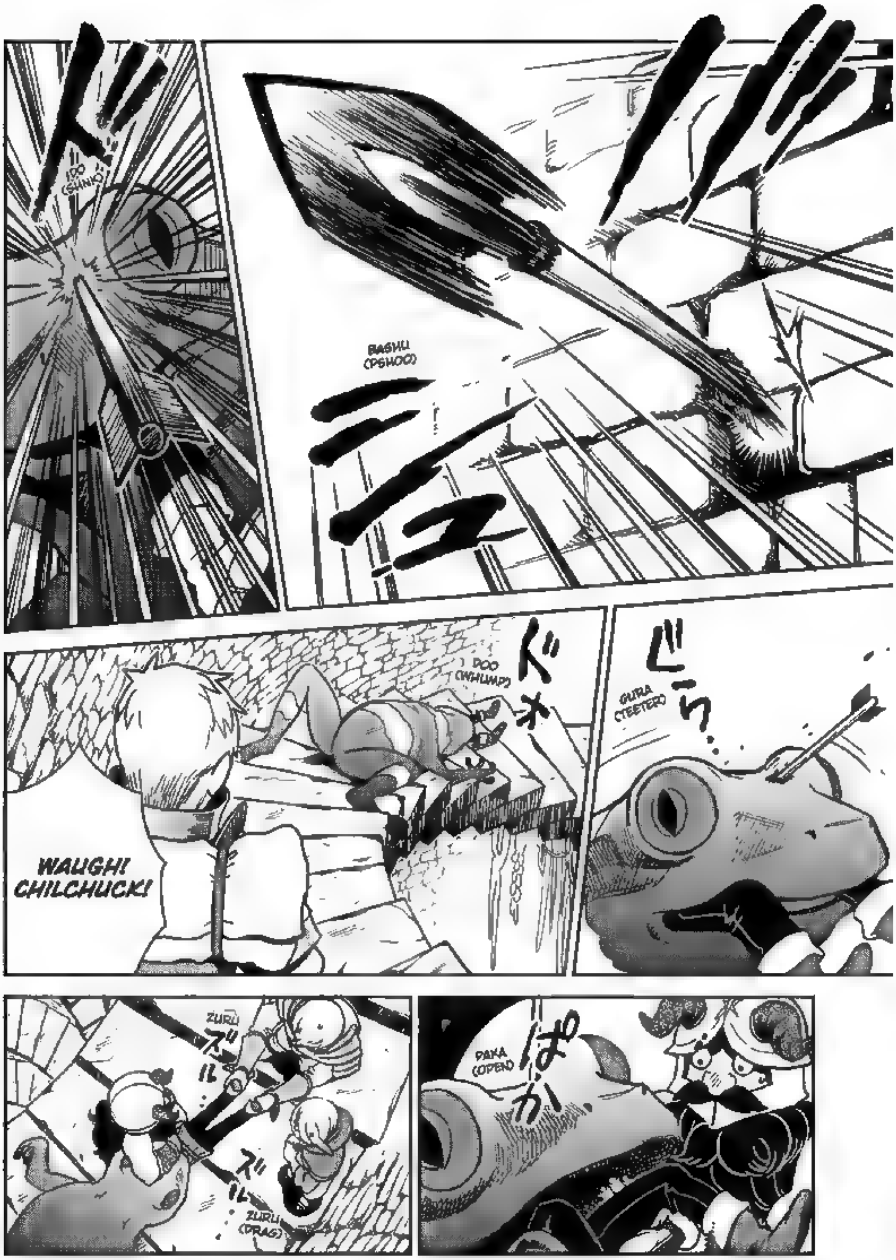

THERE'S A TENTACLE STICKING OUT UNNATURALLY RIGHT BY THE FROG.
I BET IT'S ROOTED IN A TRAP FIRING PORT.
TRAP'S.
BUT...
IF I GET IT OUT, I CAN SPRING THE TRAP!
...HOW DO I PULL IT OUT?
IF I TOUCH IT DIRECTLY, MY HANDS WILL GET BLISTERED...
WHY DON'T THE GIANT FROGS GET HURT WHEN THEY TOUCH THE TENTACLES!?
LAIOS!


I DON'T KNOW...
HUH!?
MAYBE THAT'S JUST HOW THEY'RE MADE!?
ENOUGH!
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING! LIKE BODY FLUIDS OR MANA!
SO HE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT THAT PART, HUH!?
(BAN (BAN)
ARGH! LOUSY JERK...
CHILDREN'S CURIOSITY JUST WON'T WAIT, WILL IT...?
BAN
GYU (CHUD)
GURU
GURU (WRAP)


CHIL-CHUCK ...!?
SU (BLOW)
GYUMU (SQUEEZE)
THIS'LL WORK!
IT DOESN'T HURT...!
GU (CRUNCH)

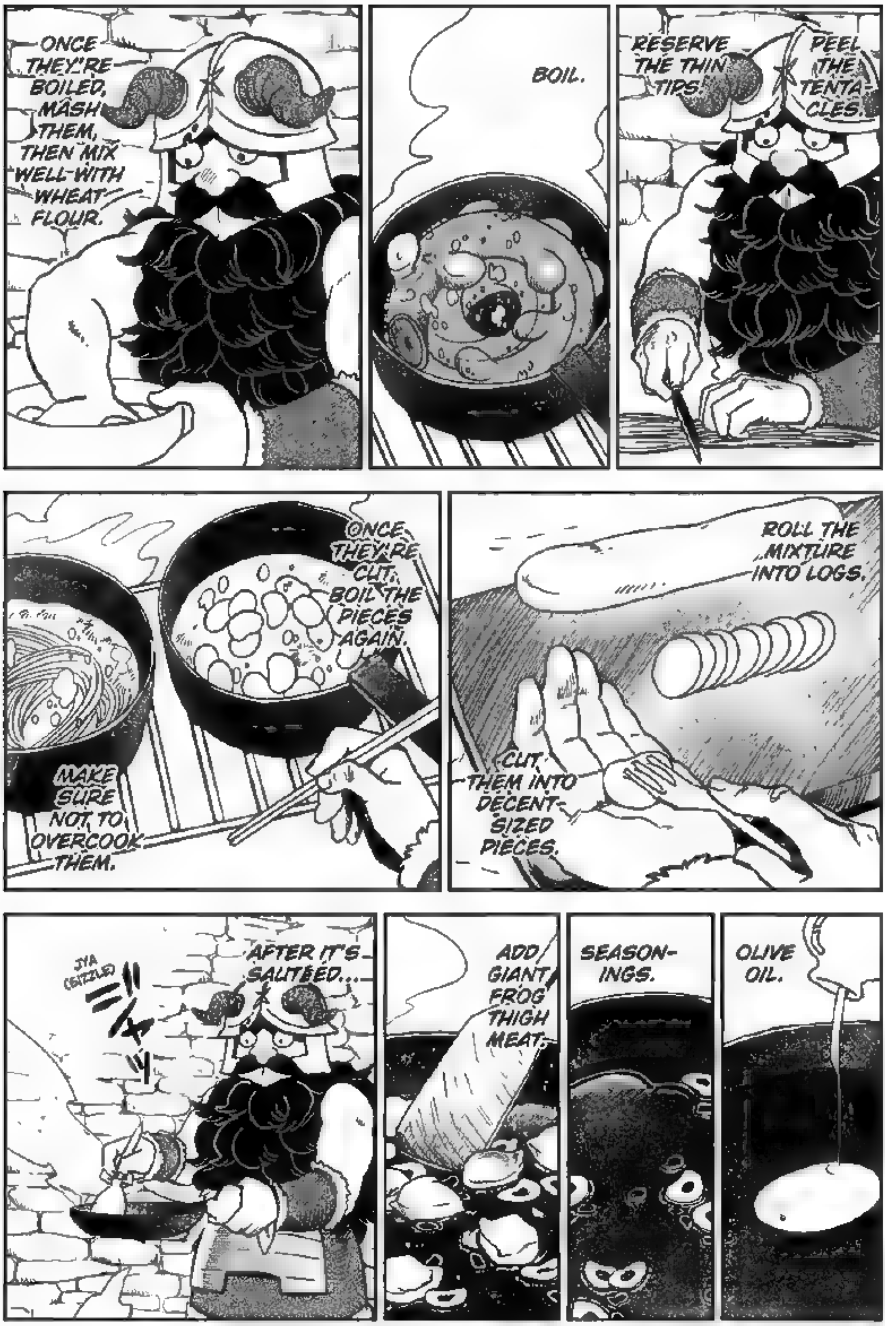

UNGH!
YOU (RELEASE)
DOTE (FALL)
HUH!?
IT WON'T COME OUT!
BAKU (CHOMP)


GUBRI (GULP)
ぐびり
GU (TUG)
CHILCHUCK!!
GA (STRUGGLE)
GA
GA
GORI (GRATE)
GORI
GORI
GORI
GYARU
ギャル
ギャル
GYARU
GYARU (EXCITED)
SUIRUN (SLIP)


DO (SHINO)
BASHU (PSHOO)
DOO (WHUMP)
WAUGH! CHILCHUCK!
GUYA (TEETER)
ZURU
ZURU (DRAG)
PAKA (OPEN)


KOFF!
KAFF!
KOFF!
OH, HE'S ALIVE.
I SEE. YOU WRAPPED YOUR HANDS IN GIANT FROG SKIN, HUH?
YOU REALLY WENT FOR IT.
HUH? THEY'RE FINE.
SHOW ME YOUR HANDS! I'LL TREAT THEM!
THAT'S AN INCREDIBLY GOOD IDEA.
CHILCHUCK.


STRIP THE SKIN OFF THE MEAT.
TAKE APART A GIANT FROG.
DRY BRIEFLY.
SEW.
MEASURE.


ONCE THEY'RE BOILED, MASH THEM, THEN MIX WELL WITH WHEAT FLOUR.
BOIL.
RESERVE THE THIN TIPS!
PEEL THE TENTACLES.
ONCE THEY'RE CUT, BOIL THE PIECES AGAIN.
MAKE SURE NOT TO OVERCOOK THEM.
ROLL THE MIXTURE INTO LOGS.
CUT THEM INTO DECENT-SIZED PIECES.
JYA (SIZZLE)
AFTER IT'S SAUTÉED...
ADD GIANT FROG THIGH MEAT.
SEASONINGS.
OLIVE OIL.


IT'S DONE!
TENTACLE GNOCCHI
(Serves 4)
Ingredients
Tentacles—3 medium
Giant frog thigh meat—300 g
Wheat flour—100 g
Salt—A pinch
Olive oil—To taste
Garlic & spicy chili peppers—To taste
IT'S DONE!
FROG SUIT
(For 1)
"Ingredients"
Giant frog skin—1
Cutting tool
Sewing kit

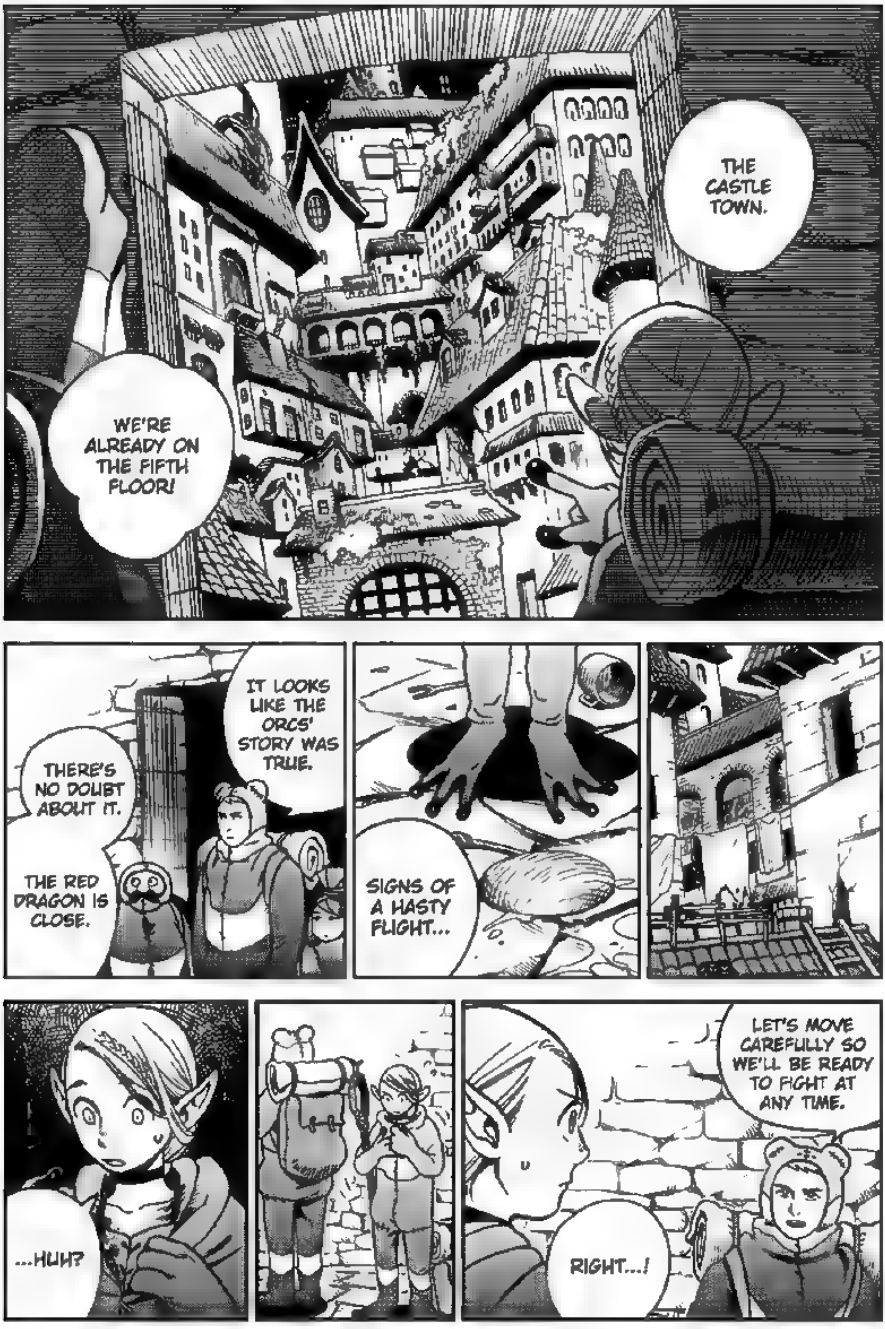

FOR THE LOVE OF...
AAAAARGH.


NOW, NOW. JUST TRY IT ON.
YES, HE'S RIGHT.
TRY A BITE. JUST ONE.
I TOLD YOU, ONE AT A TIME!
SHOW ME ONE AT A TIME!
YOU FINISHED BEFORE I COULD DECIDE WHICH OF YOU TO STOP.
MARCILLE, IF YOU WEAR THIS...
HISO
HISO (WHISPER)
HISO
WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF THOSE ARE SAFE.
.....
.....
.....
...I THINK IT'LL LOOK REALLY CUTE!


LET'S JUST GO.
YES'M.
CUTE, VERY CUTE.
THAT'S A GREAT COLOR ON YOU.
IT'S NEAT THE WAY YOUR EARS MAKE THE SILHOUETTE ACTUALLY LOOK FROG-LIKE.


SO SNEAK
THEY SURE ARE PRETTY ...
SU (SWIP)
IT'S AMAZING! IT DOESN'T HURT AT ALL.
MORURUN
モルルン
UGH! GROSS! THIS IS SO GROSS!
MORU (WRIGGLE)
ENERGY
CARBS
PROTEIN
FAT
IRON
CALCIUM
VITAMINS
MOGU CHUNCHUN
MOGU
ZUSU (SLURP)
YUM.


AH!
KEN-SUKE!!
WHEW.
OH!
LOOK!


THE CASTLE TOWN.
WE'RE ALREADY ON THE FIFTH FLOOR!
IT LOOKS LIKE THE ORCS' STORY WAS TRUE.
THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.
THE RED DRAGON IS CLOSE.
SIGNS OF A HASTY FLIGHT...
...HUH?
LET'S MOVE CAREFULLY SO WE'LL BE READY TO FIGHT AT ANY TIME.
RIGHT...!


I CAN'T GET THIS THING OFF!
HUH!? WAIT...
RIGHT. BECAUSE THERE WASN'T TIME TO TAN THE HIDES PROPERLY.
UM...
GIANT FROG... BLOOD? IS CAKED ON THE INSIDE...
...AND IT'S STUCK TO MY CLOTHES.
.....
.....
WE'RE FIGHTING THE DRAGON LIKE THIS?
.....
WELL!?
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO LOOK FALIN IN THE FACE WHEN I SEE HER AGAIN!?
HEY!

*To be continued...*


MISC. MONSTER TALES
3
KRAKEN
IT CAN GROW TO THE SIZE OF AN ISLAND.
IS AN ENORMOUS MOLLUSK THAT RESEMBLES BOTH OCTOPUSES AND SQUID.
FIRST, OPEN UP THE BODY.
CUT ALONG THE BONE THAT RUNS THROUGH THIS PART.
STILL, THEIR BODIES DON'T SEEM MUCH DIFFERENT FROM A SQUID OR OCTOPUS.
HERE, I'LL TEACH YOU HOW TO DRESS 'EM.
PARAN (POP)
...OPEN IT UP.
ONCE YOU'VE MADE THE CUT..
BYEEE (TRIP)
CAREFUL NOT TO DAMAGE THE ORGANS.
...AND THE BODY'S READY TO GO.
BERR (RRRIP)
TAKE OFF THE EARS, THEN STRIP OFF THE SKIN, STARTING AT THE EDGE...
IT'S LIKE GLAGG.
THAT SEPARATES THE ORGANS AND THE FLESH NICELY.


THEY'RE FINE AS LONG AS YOU DON'T EAT THEM THE WRONG WAY.
REALLY PAINFUL ONES
AND THEY'VE GOT PARA-SITES.
I'M TELLING YOU, THE REGULAR ONES TASTE BETTER.
BUT THE FLAVOR'S SORT OF...
OH?
IT'S A LITTLE LIKE A PUZZLE.
INTER-ESTING.
ONE OF THESE DAYS, WHEN I GET THE CHANCE.
I'M INTERESTED IN IT AS A CREATURE ANYWAY.
HAVE SOME AT A PROPER RESTAURANT AT LEAST ONCE.
IT'S A WASTE TO HATE REAL SQUID AND OCTOPUS WITHOUT EVEN TRYING THEM.
DOBU (STAB)
WHAT ARE THESE TUBE-SHAPED THINGS?
I REALLY DON'T LIKE THIS CREATURE!!
LAIOS RESOLVED NEVER TO EAT A CEPHALOPOD AGAIN.
IF YOU EAT SQUID SPERMATOPHORES, THEY STAB YOU IN THE MOUTH, AND IT REALLY HURTS. BE CAREFUL.
IT'S A SACK WITH SPERM IN IT. WHEN STIMU-LATED, IT RELEASES THEM.
!?!?
THAT'S A SPERMATO-PHORE.
MUHI!? OWW!!
WHAI? A PARA-SITE!?

# 3

# DELICIOUS IN DUNGEON

## RYOKO KUI

**Translation: Taylor Engel** **Lettering: Abigail Blackman**

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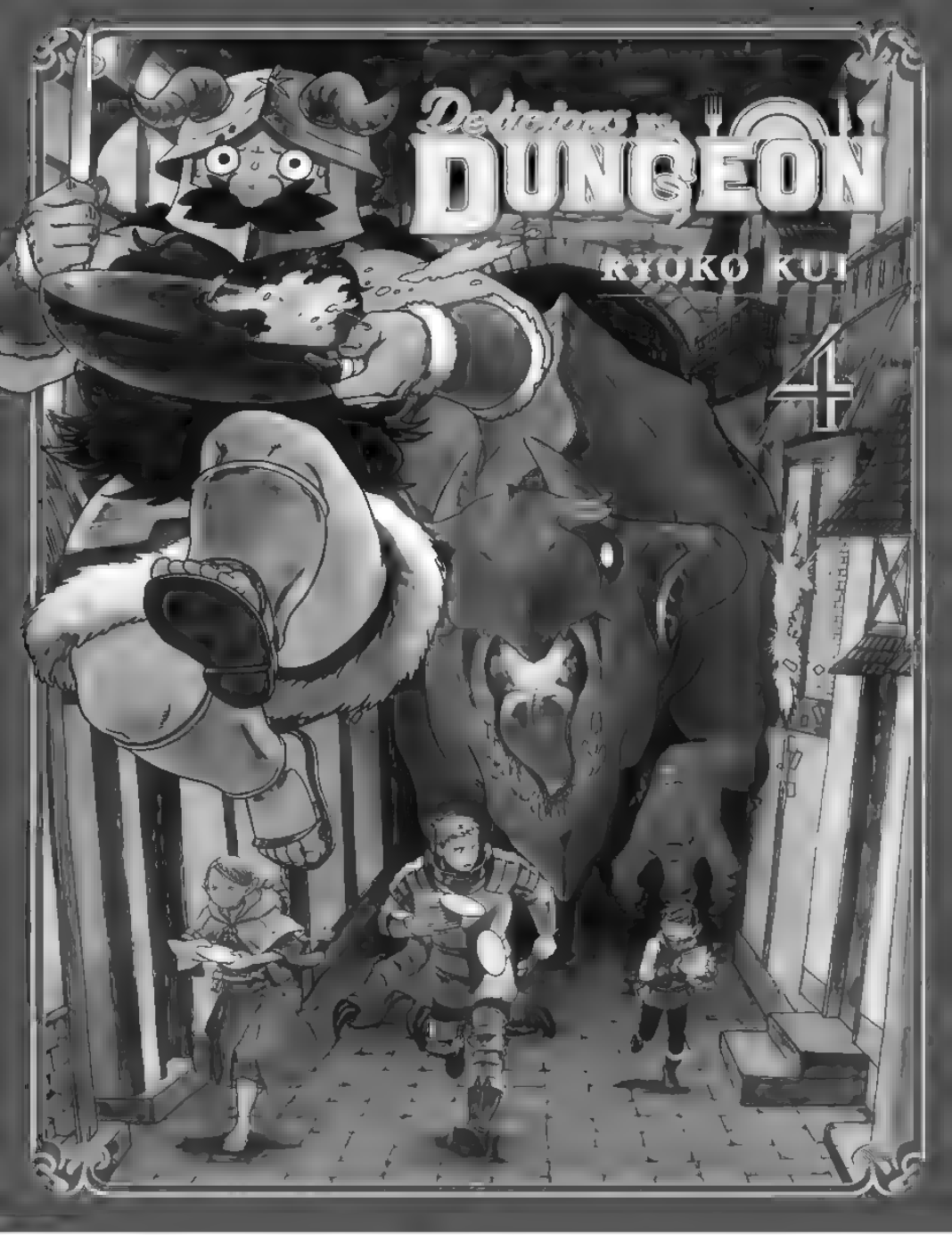
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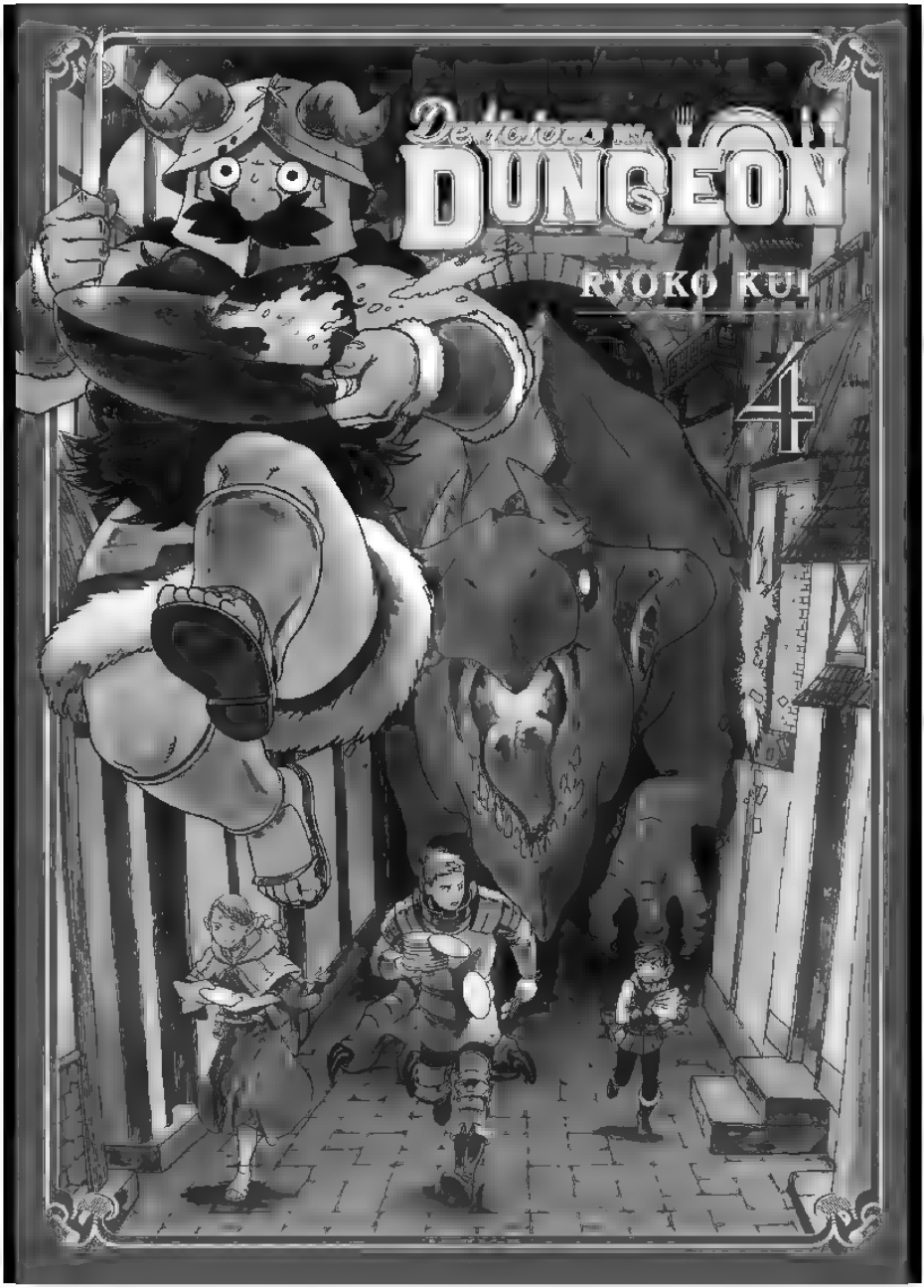
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Delicious in
DUNGEON
RYOKO KUI
4


Delicious in
DUNGEON
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4

# Delicious in Dungeon



Ryoko Kui

4

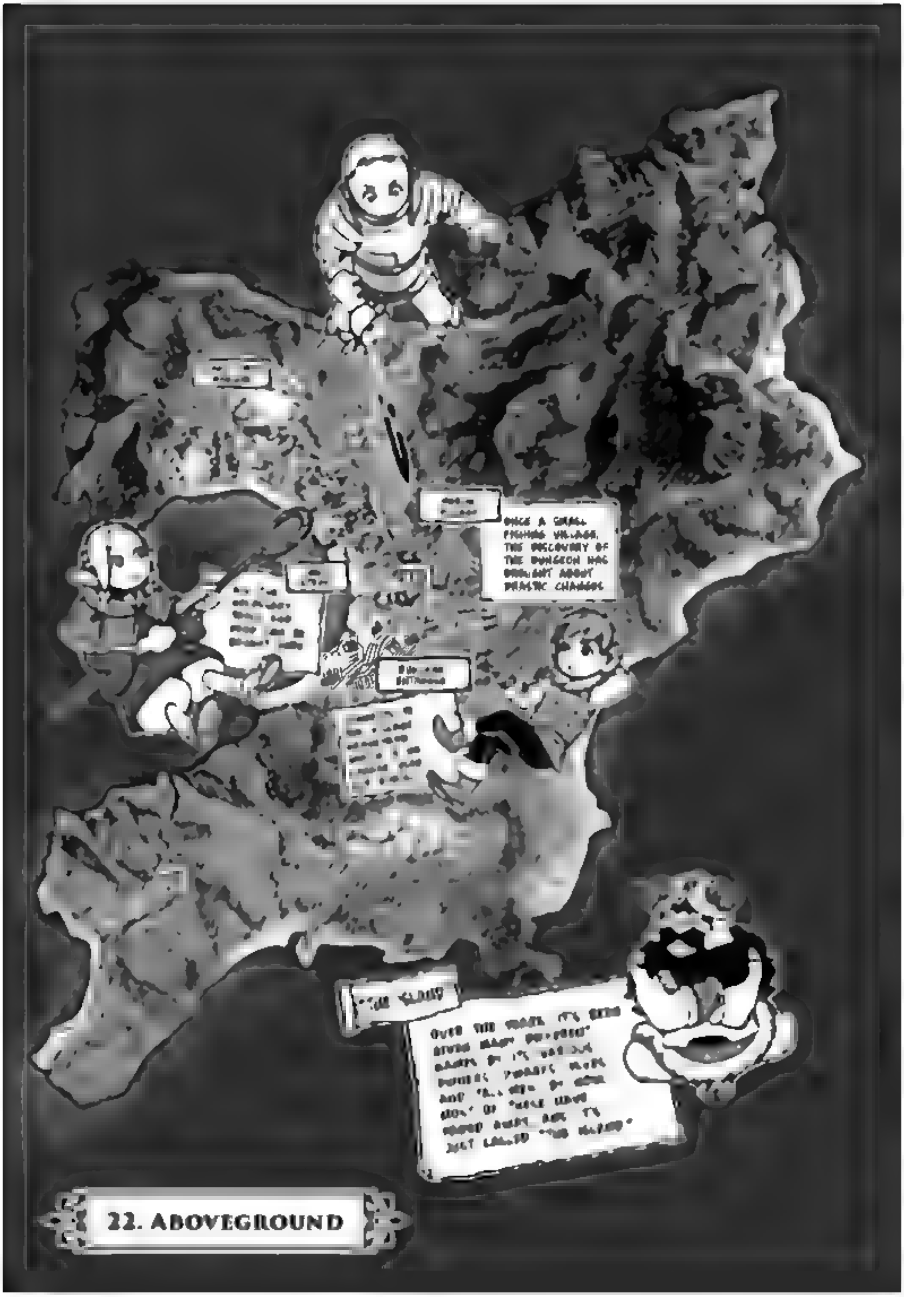
# Delicious in Dungeon

4

*Contents*

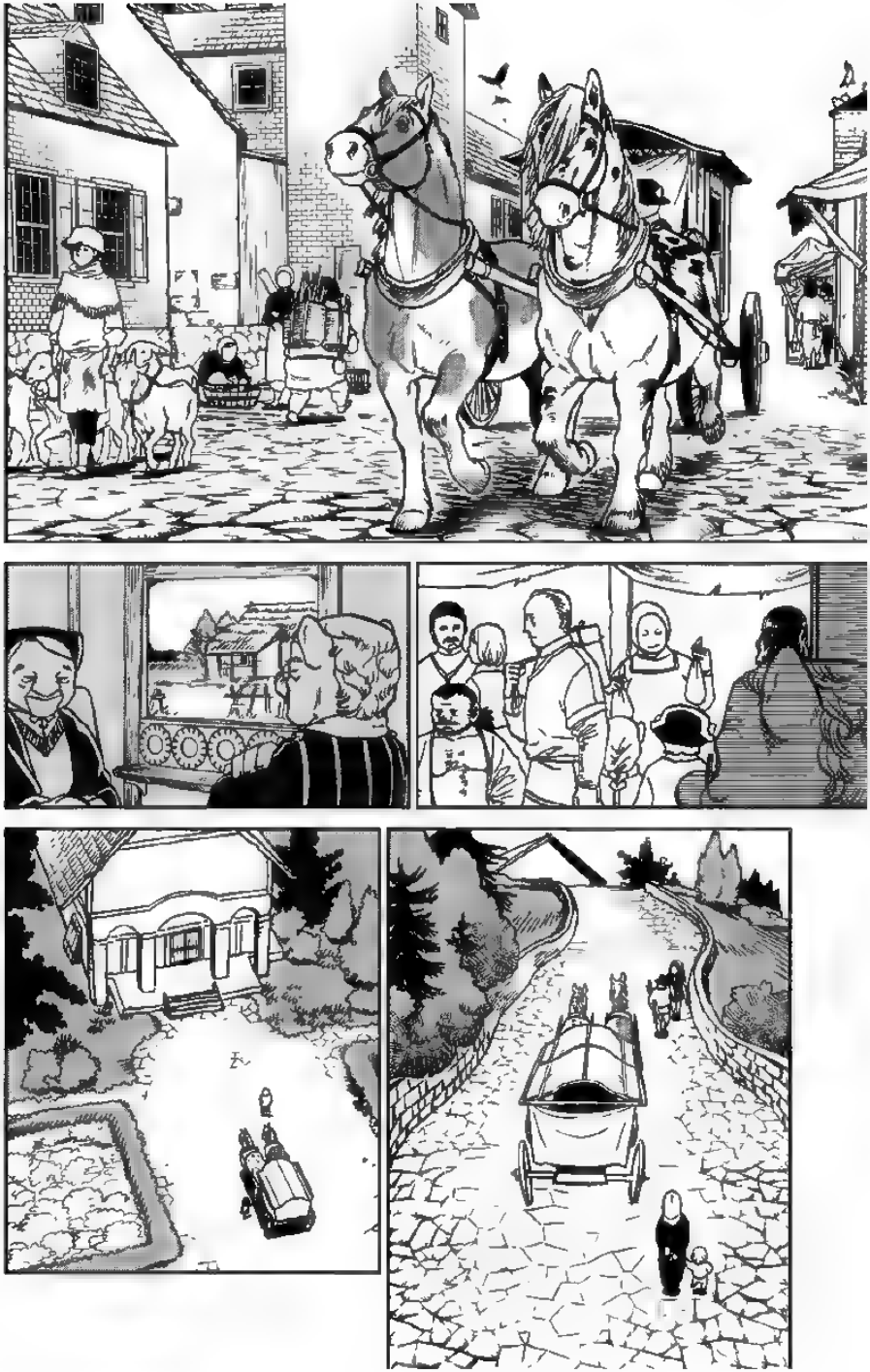
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Chapter 22* | **ABOVEGROUND** | 005 |
| *Chapter 23* | **RED DRAGON I** | 029 |
| *Chapter 24* | **RED DRAGON II** | 053 |
| *Chapter 25* | **RED DRAGON III** | 079 |
| *Chapter 26* | **RED DRAGON IV** | 105 |
| *Chapter 27* | **RED DRAGON V** | 127 |
| *Chapter 28* | **RED DRAGON VI** | 147 |
| *Bonus* | **MISCELLANEOUS MONSTER TALES -4-** | 184 |




22. ABOVEGROUND


NU (GLOOP)
SLTCH (THMP)
NNGH.
MY INSIDES ARE CHURNING.
WAAAH...
ZOWA (SHUDDER)
ZOWA
ZOWA
UUH...


PUT NAMARI TO BED IN A GUEST ROOM.
PAYMENT CAN WAIT UNTIL HER STOMACH'S SETTLED DOWN.
KIKI.
KAKA.
BLRGH...
ALL THIS TEARING AROUND...
DOTA (TROMP)
DOTA
HEY! WE'RE BACK!
READY THE CAR-RIAGE!
SHALL I PUT THE KETTLE ON FOR TEA?
NO, WE'RE LEAVING R GHT AWAY.




THE VILLAGE IS PROSPERING TOO.
BEFORE THE DUNGEON WAS DISCOVERED, THEY DIDN'T HAVE A SINGLE MANSERVANT.
THIS PLACE GETS FANCIER EVERY TIME WE VISIT.
THE DAISIES ARE PRETTY, AREN'T THEY?
LORD TANSU!
TO ME, ITS GOLD SEEMS LIKE NECTAR THAT ATTRACTS BUZZING INSECTS...
THIS ISLAND IS SWOLLEN TO BURSTING WITH DESIRES.
I DUNNO ABOUT THAT.
THE DUNGEON CAN BE CREDITED WITH MORE THAN JUST HARM.
LET'S TAKE HIM UP ON IT.
I JUST RETURNED FROM A HUNT.
I'LL HAVE MY COOK DEMONSTRATE HIS TALENTS.
PERFECT TIMING.


AND? HOW WAS IT?
MOST OF THE TREASURE HAS BEEN STRIPPED UNTIL THE THIRD FLOOR.
OUTLAWS HAVE CONGREGATED IN MORE AREAS.
...IT'S GOTTEN ROUGHER DOWN THERE.
ONE ITEM OF PARTICULAR CONCERN IS THAT...
I'D RECOMMEND SENDING IN SOLDIERS OR PUTTING A BOUNTY ON THEM.
HMM.
ALSO, THERE'S A BAND OF ORCS IN THE UPPER LEVELS...
...THAT FREQUENTLY CAUSES TROUBLE.

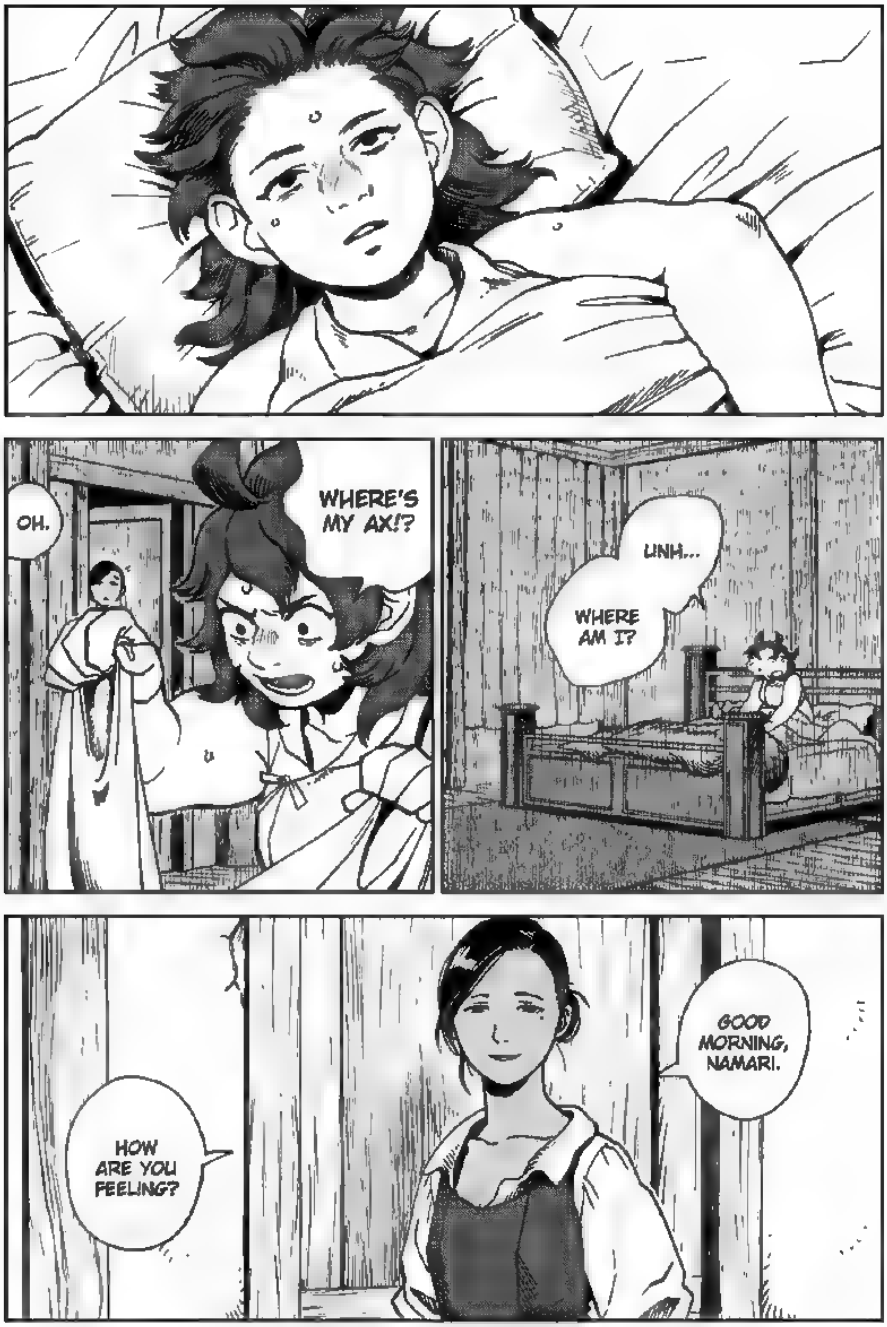

DWARFS, EH!?
BLASTED NUISANCES.
THEY MAY HAVE BROKEN THROUGH...
...FROM AN OLD DWARF MINE SHAFT. ORCS LIVE IN HOLES LIKE THOSE.
NOW WHERE DID THEY CREEP IN FROM?
LONG AGO, WHEN THE ELVES AND DWARFS SPLIT BETWEEN EAST AND WEST AND FOUGHT...
...THEY SAY THE DWARFS LURKED HERE, WAITING FOR THE ELVES.
THEY'RE AS BAD AS MOLES.
THERE ARE HOLES EVERYWHERE, NO MATTER HOW MANY YOU BLOCK OFF.
THEY SAY SURVIVING DWARF TRIBES ARE WHY THE DUNGEON'S STILL EXPAN-DING.
THAT RUMOR'S HARDLY CREDIBLE.
EVEN AFTER THE WAR, THEY KEPT DIGGING HOLES...
...UNTIL THEY SWALLOWED UP THE GOLDEN CITY AND MADE A DUNGEON OUT OF IT.


THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF ANYONE ELSE HAVING ALTERED THEM.
THEY'RE IN ELVISH, LIKE THE OTHERS.
THE HAND-WRITING SEEMS TO BE THE SAME TOO.
GUI CRUSH
THESE ARE THE MAGIC CIRCLES I COPIED ON THIS TRIP.
IT SEEMS CLEAR...
...THAT THEY WERE CREATED BY THE LORD OF THE DUNGEON— THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN.
OH. GREAT ...
?
I CAN'T SAY FOR CERTAIN, BUT...
...I DOUBT HUMANS OR DWARFS COULD USE THIS MAGIC.
THE LORD'S AN ELF?


I GOT A LETTER FROM THE WESTERN ELVES THE OTHER DAY.
"THE DUNGEON IS OURS," IT SAID. "RETURN IT."
WHAT SELFISHNESS!
THEY STOLE MORE THAN ENOUGH DWARF TERRITORY!
AREN'T THEY THE ONES WHO GAVE IT TO HUMANS!?
JUST IGNORE IT.
THIS LAND WAS GRANTED TO ME BY THE ELF KING.
I CAN'T DO THAT.
THEY'LL TAKE YOUR WHOLE ISLAND.
THAT WOULD BE A PROBLEM.
THERE MUST STILL BE A VAST TREASURE SLEEPING IN THAT DUNGEON...
MY LORD.
IT ISN'T TREASURE THEY'RE AFTER.
IT'S THE DUNGEON'S SPELL OF IMMORTALITY.


DAN CTHULHU
LISTEN TO ME!
SO COPY AND RESEARCH ALL THE MAGIC CIRCLES, THEN?
WE MUST UNLOCK THE DUNGEON'S SECRETS BEFORE THE ELVES DO.
IF THOSE MYSTERIES ARE SOLVED...
...THEIR VALUE WILL PUT GOLD TO SHAME.
THE SOUL-BINDING MAGIC STILL HOLDS MANY MYSTERIES.
THAT IS WHAT YOU MUST FIND.
AS LONG AS YOU HAVE THE SPELL, LET THEM TAKE THE DUNGEON OR ANYTHING THEY WANT.
A SPELL THIS ENORMOUS IS BOUND TO BE RECORDED SOME-WHERE!
W-WILL THEY REALLY?
OR RATHER, THEY'LL KNEEL WHEN THEY SPEAK TO YOU.
...THE ELVES WILL FINALLY TREAT US AS EQUALS.
ONCE WE GET THAT RECORD...


.....
...I EXPECT THE LORD OF THE DUNGEON HAS IT.
WHERE IS IT, THEN?
WELL, NATURALLY...
...ALL RIGHT. I'LL PUT A BOUNTY ON THE ORCS.
DON'T SAVE YOUR MONEY. PROVIDE MORE SUPPORT.
DON'T SKIMP ON PAYING OUT FOR MONSTER SLAYINGS AND DUNGEON ITEMS.
EXACTLY.
I SHOULD PROVIDE STEADY SUPPORT FOR EXPLORERS, THEN.
WHAT WAS HIS NAME? LAIOS?
HE WAS A SKILLED ADVENTURER, BUT...
...I WONDER HOW FAR THEY'LL GET.
WHAT SHOULD I TELL THE ELVES?
WE'LL HELP YOU BUY TIME.


OH.
WHERE'S MY AX!?
UNH...
WHERE AM I?
GOOD MORNING, NAMARI.
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

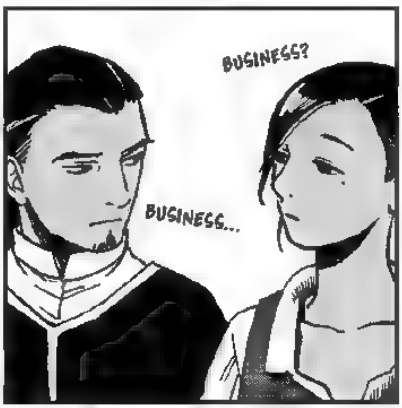

SHALL I OPEN THE WINDOW?
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY.
DWUH...
WHAT TIME IS IT?
IT'S MORNING.
MONEY.
THE TANSUS ARE OUT RUNNING AN ERRAND.
THEY LEFT THIS FOR YOU.
YOUR THINGS ARE THERE.
WE'LL WALK YOU TO THE AVENUE.
TH-THANKS...
...FOR HELPING ME.
...BUT HE HOPES TO HIRE YOU AGAIN.
HE SAYS IT WILL BE A LITTLE WHILE...
THIS IS MORE THAN WE AGREED ON.




NO, NO. I'VE GOT SOME BUSINESS NEARBY.
...WHY?
YOU'RE GOING IN AGAIN?


DO YOU HAVE A HOUSE? OR LODGINGS?
UH, NO.
I WANT TO GO BACK TO THE DUNGEON.


YOU'RE COMING WITH?


BUSINESS?
BUSINESS...


A TEM-
PLE...
UGH.
GII
COREAK
ギィ


THE RESURRECTION OFFICE...
FEATURES?
SHE'S A FEMALE TALLMAN.
SO WHAT'S UP TODAY? LOST ITEM? MISSING PERSON?
I HEARD YOU LEFT LAIOS'S GROUP. THAT TRUE?
PERSON.
OH-HO.
NAMARI!
GO GET YOUR EYES CHECKED!
LIKE I CAN TELL OTHER RACES' AGES!?
HOLD IT. YOU MEAN LAIOS'S KID SISTER?
...TEENS TO FORTIES?
SHE'S TWENTY OR SO.
LIGHT-BROWN HAIR, ABOUT THIS LONG.
HER AGE IS...


WE'VE GOT ONE THAT'S GENDER UN-KNOWN.
WANT TO TAKE A LOOK?
HEY, WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT BURNED ONE?
IT'S HERE.
WE DON'T HAVE ANY CORPSES LIKE THAT, BUT...
...OH.
I HOPE YOU FIND HER.
YEAH.
PHEW...
THE ARMOR'S WRONG.
THOSE DON'T COME OVER FROM THE CONTINENT OFTEN.
PUT IT BACK GENTLY.
GENTLY...
IF THEY TRIED, THEY'D JUST FAIL.
THEY'LL NEED A REAL EXPERT MAGICIAN TO LOOK AT IT.
WHY DON'T THEY REVIVE THAT BODY?
TOO DAMAGED.


I SEE...
.....
FURU (SHAKE)
FURU
NO, HUH?
WELL, YOU DO HAVE THE OLD GUY.
YOU GUYS HAVEN'T USED A REVIVIFIER BEFORE?
THIS PLACE HAS GREAT ALE.
HUNGRY?
LET'S TAKE A SIDE TRIP.
AHEM.
SO LISTEN ...
YOU SURE LIKE LONG LEGS, HUH?
THEN IS THIS YOUR NEW GUY!?
OOH! NO WAY!
YOU'RE GIVING FOLKS THE WRONG IDEA!!
YEAH.
DID YOU FINALLY SPLIT WITH LAIOS? REALLY?
HM!? IF IT ISN'T NAMARI!!


BUT IF YOU LOSE MORE THAN ONE-THIRTEENTH OF YOUR BODY...
...OR GET CARBONIZED, THE SUCCESSFUL RESURRECTION RATE PLUMMETS.
STAB WOUNDS AND SLASHES ARE EASY TO HEAL.
EVEN IF YOU'RE CUT IN HALF, THEY CAN STICK YOU BACK TOGETHER.
JUST BECAUSE MR. TANSU CAN REVIVE YOU, DON'T THINK YOU'RE SAFE.
CRAP
AH...
BUT IF THEY SHATTER, YOU HAVE TO FIND AL- OF 'EM, SO IT'S BAD.
WHAT ABOUT PETRIFACTION?
WE KNOW HOW PETRIFACTION SPELLS WORK, SO THAT'S EASIER.
IT'S TRICKY BECAUSE THE SOULS MINGLE.
IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL, THE PERSONALITIES CAN GET MIXED UP TOO.
IN THE UPPER LEVELS, POSSESSION'S THE BIG DANGER.
YOU HEAR ABOUT ADVENTURERS GETTING POSSESSED BY GHOSTS AND TURNING INTO GHOULS.


IF YOU GET WIPED OUT IN A PLACE WHERE NO ONE EVER GOES, THAT'S IT.
BUT THAT'S WHEN THE DANGER'S WORST.
"EVEN IF I DIE, IT'LL BE FINE," YOU THINK. "I'LL COME BACK."
THE LONGER YOU'RE IN THE DUNGEON, THE LESS YOU FEEL IT.
ALWAYS THINK ABOUT STAYING ALIVE, NO MATTER WHAT.
SO DON'T FORGET YOUR FEAR.


IF SOMETHING HAPPENS, AND I'M LOOKING FOR YOU...
...I'LL NEED TO KNOW.
WERE YOU LISTEN-ING TO ME!?
HOW OLD ARE YOU, NAMARI?
TWENTY.
TWENTY...
NOT SURE IF THAT'S YOUNG OR NOT.
RIGHT. YEAH.
OH...
I'M SIXTY-ONE.
WHAT ABOUT YOU GUYS?
WELL, UH...
IT'S KIND OF A LONG STORY.
I MEAN, YOU'RE NOT BLOOD RELATIVES, RIGHT?
HOW ARE YOU AND THEY RELATED?
AND GRANDMA'S 204!
BY THE WAY, GRANDPA IS 210.
THEY'RE AWFULLY PEPPY.
I HAD BEEN WONDER-ING...


EAT LOTS AND LOTS, OKAY?
SORRY FOR THE WAIT!


TODAY'S OUR DAY OFF.
TAKE YOUR TIME AND TELL ME ABOUT IT.
KAKA, GIMME THE PLATES.
IF YOU WANT ANYTHING ELSE, JUST ORDER IT, KIKI.
WOW...









## 23. Red Dragon I

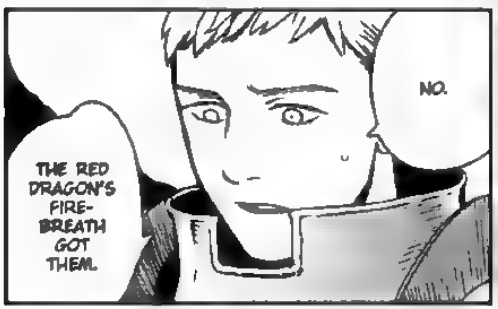

OUTSIDE THE GOLDEN CASTLE, THE CASTLE TOWN UNFOLDS.
BELOW-GROUND, IT
MAGIC HAS EXPANDED AND WARPED THE STREETS ...
...BUT EVERYWHERE THERE ARE TRACES OF THE AGE WHEN THE TOWN WAS BUSTLING AND LIVELY.
A STRANGE FEELING COMES OVER YOU.
THE SOUND OF WHIS-PERS, REAL OR IMAG-INED.
A HALF-CAUGHT GLIMPSE OF SOMEONE PASSING.


IT LOOKS LIKE THEY LEFT IN A BIG HURRY.
THEIR LARDER IS WIDE-OPEN.
THE ORCS' VILLAGE WAS AROUND HERE.
LET'S MAKE BREAD.
IT LOOKS LIKE THE FLOUR AND LIQUOR ARE SAFE.
OH-HO!
WHAT AN AWFUL SMELL.
THE LOCAL MONSTERS MUST HAVE GOTTEN INTO IT.
...AH!
MISHI
CKRIO
MISHI
WHEN THE ORCS COME BACK, THEY'LL GET MAD.
WE GAVE THEM OUR VEGETABLES. THIS MAKES US EVEN.




THEY'RE WARGS.
IT... WASN'T A FIRE, WAS IT?




NO.
THE RED DRAGON'S FIRE-BREATH GOT THEM.


IT PASSED THROUGH HERE JUST RECENTLY!
BUT FROM WHAT THE ORCS SAID AND WHAT WE'RE SEEING...
...IT'S BEEN ON THE MOVE THIS WHOLE TIME...
...AND IT'S PROBABLY PROWLING NEARBY.
...DIDN'T YOU SAY EARLIER ...
...THAT DRAGONS SLEEP MOST OF THE TIME AND AREN'T ACTIVE?
...L-LISTEN...
IF SHE'S ALREADY BEEN DIGESTED ...
IF WE LOSE AGAIN...
MAYBE WE COULD HAVE DEFEATED A SLEEPING DRAGON...
...BUT CAN WE REALLY BEAT IT NOW?


FOR NOW, LET'S PLAN OUR STRATEGY.
CALM DOWN.
WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING YET.
THREE?
THAT'S EASY TO SAY...
...BUT FIGHTING IT WITH JUST THREE PEOPLE IS GOING TO BE ROUGH...
S-SORRY.
WE KNOW THAT.
NOBODY'S BLAMING YOU. GEEZ.
I'VE TOLD YOU A MILLION TIMES! DON'T EXPECT ME TO FIGHT!
MY JOB WAS TO HELP YOU GET THIS FAR. THAT'S IT!


...FALIN WOULD CAST SPELLS TO PROTECT US AGAINST FLAME AND INJURY.
HOW DID YOU DEFEAT DRAGONS BEFORE?
IT DEPENDED ON THE TIME, PLACE, AND SPECIES, BUT...
...MARCILLE WOULD WEAKEN IT WITH EXPLOSIVE SPELLS...
LAIOS, NAMARI, AND SHURO WOULD KEEP IT PINNED DOWN!!
THAT'S ABOUT HOW IT USUALLY WENT.
...AND WHEN SHURO SPOTTED AN OPENING, HE'D FINISH IT OFF.


HOWEVER, JUST BELOW THEIR HEAD...
MAGIC AND WEAPONS DON'T WORK WELL ON DRAGONS.
THAT'S BECAUSE THEIR BODIES ARE COVERED IN SCALES LIKE IRON.
OF COURSE, OUR NUMBERS MADE THAT POSSIBLE.
WE NEED TO THINK OF SOMETHING THE THREE OF US CAN PULL OFF.
!
A GAP IN THE SCALES OVERLAPS WITH A VITAL POINT THERE.
...THERE'S ONE PLACE WHERE YOU CAN INFLICT A LETHAL WOUND— THE SO-CALLED "INVERSE SCALE."
LET'S SEE...
ABOUT HOW BIG IS THIS RED DRAGON?
AH.
LOOK OVER THERE.
IF WE STAB THAT, WE CAN WIN!


SEE THAT CRUMBLING CORRIDOR?
IT'S ABOUT THAT TALL.
ACTUALLY, I BET THE DRAGON BANGED ITS HEAD ON THAT.
OH! I SEE.
...THAT'S BIG.
STRIKING IT AT THAT HEIGHT WILL BE NO EASY TASK.
YOU'RE ABSO-LUTELY RIGHT.
HMM...
LET'S TRY GOING UP THERE.

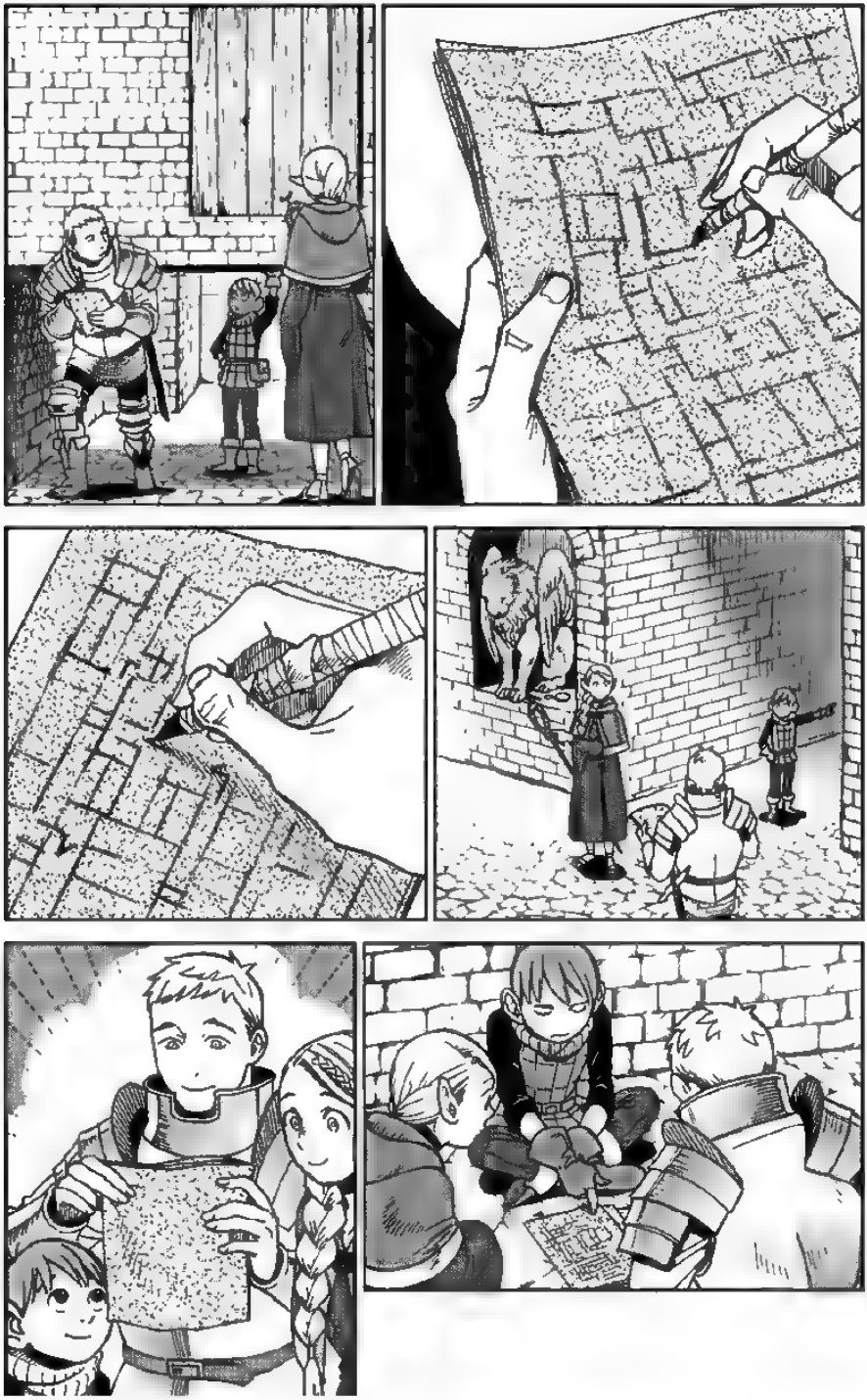

COULD I JUMP TO THE DRAGON'S HEAD FROM HERE?
NO. NO WAY!
I WOULDN'T.
THIS SURE IS HIGH.
YEAH, WHAT ABOUT THE FIRE-BREATH?
THERE'S NOWHERE TO RUN ON THIS FLOOR.
IF YOU FALL FROM THIS HEIGHT, YOU'LL DEFINITELY GET HURT...
...AND I CAN'T BLOCK FIRE-BREATH.
I CAN CAST DEFENSE SPELLS...
...BUT I'M NOT AS GOOD AS FALIN.
IF I'M GOING TO BE CHANTING A SPELL BIG ENOUGH TO KNOCK OUT A DRAGON, I'LL NEED TIME.
WILL YOUR SWORD WORK, LAIOS?
BESIDES, NAMARI DIDN'T THINK SENSHI'S AX WOULD BE ANY GOOD.


AND WE CAN'T KILL IT UNLESS SOMEONE STRIKES THAT LAST BLOW.
CAN YOU AND SENSHI DO THAT BY YOURSELVES, LAIOS?
WELL, UH...
WE'LL MANAGE SOME-HOW...
.....
YEAH, BUT HOW?
PARA (CRUMBLE)


THERE ARE LOTS OF THEM HERE.
BRIDGES AND HOUSES BUILT BETWEEN BUILDINGS.
WHAT IF, INSTEAD OF THE DRAGON...
...WE BLOW UP A BUILDING?
...WE CAN PUT THE INVERSE SCALE WITHIN REACH...
...AND ATTACK WHILE IT'S UNABLE TO STRIKE BACK!
IF WE DESTROY ONE WHEN THE DRAGON'S UNDER IT...
...AND USE THE RUBBLE TO PIN IT DOWN...
OH...


THAT SAID, WE CAN RUN...
...AND LURE THE DRAGON AFTER US.
IT'S TRUE WE FEW WON'T BE ABLE TO STALL IT LONG ENOUGH ...
...TO SET UP ANYTHING ELABO-RATE.
THANK YOU!
STILL...
I COULD HELP YOU WITH THAT.
...I SEE.
DO YOU MEAN IT!?
THIS TOWN IS A TIGHT FIT FOR THE DRAGON.
IF WE PLAN OUR ROUTE RIGHT, WE CAN TIRE IT OUT.
IT MUST BE TIRED ALREADY FROM BEING ACTIVE FOR SO LONG ANYWAY.
MAYBE IT'S IN HEAT?
BUTSU BUTSU CHUTTERO
BUT...
BY THE WAY...
...I WONDER WHY IT ISN'T SLEEPING.
AND WHY IS IT ON THE FIFTH FLOOR?
IT HATES SMALL SPACES, BUT IT'S STUBBORNLY HANGING AROUND HERE.

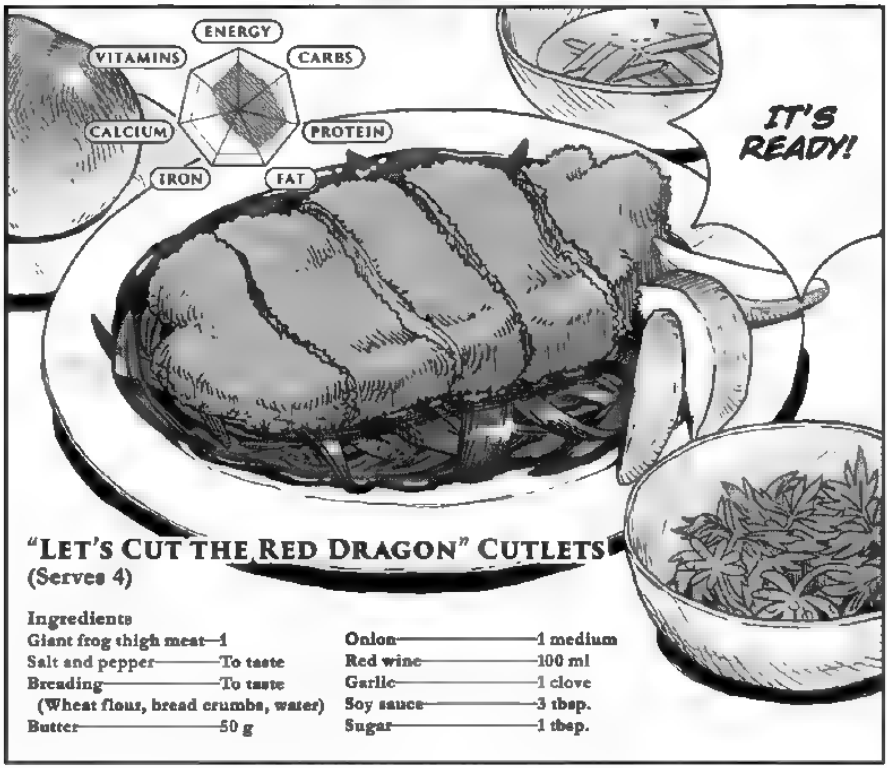

SHE DID SAY THAT!!
IT WAS EVERY BLACK-SMITH'S DREAM, OR SOME SUCH.
...AND SHATTER THEIR SOME-THING ELSE...
WHAT WAS IT? IT CAN STOP DRAGONS' SOME-THING...
...DIDN'T NAMARI SAY SENSHI'S POT...
...WAS MADE OF AN AMAZING METAL?
WE SHOULD HAVE HAD NAMARI LOOK AT IT.
YOUR KITCHEN KNIFE ISN'T SPECIAL TOO, IS IT?
SAI CHUUSHO
RIGHT, THAT'S IT!
THE THING IT BLOCKS MUST BE FIRE-BREATH!
THAT SOLVES THAT PROBLEM, THEN.
OKAY!
LET'S GO SCOUT OUT A ROUTE TO RUN IT DOWN.
THIS SEEMS LIKE IT JUST MIGHT WORK.
WHEN YOU TAKE TIME TO THINK, THERE'S ALWAYS A WAY!




I WAS BAKING BREAD.
FUKKARI (FLUFFY)
WE'RE ABOUT TO FIGHT A DRAGON, YOU KNOW...
YOU'RE BACK, HM?
SENSHI, YOU JUST DISAPPEARED ON US.
WE LOST TO THE RED DRAGON DUE TO HUNGER ONCE.
WE WON'T REPEAT THAT MISTAKE.
RIGHT?
OF COURSE I DO.
WE'RE GOING TO BE WORKING HARD, RIGHT?
FORTIFYING OURSELVES WITH A MEAL IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WE CAN DO.
NOT UNTIL WE WIN.
AAAAH!!
I TOOK SOME FROM THE LARDER.
HEY!
IT'S WINE.


GRATE BREAD INTO FINE CRUMBS WITH A GRATER.
NO EGGS HERE, BUT...
...WITH WHAT'S HERE, I COULD MAKE ONE THING.
FUWA (FLUFF)
FUWA
COAT IT WITH THE BREAD CRUMBS.
SEASON GIANT FROG MEAT WITH SALT AND PEPPER...
...THEN DUNK IT IN A MIXTURE OF FLOUR AND WATER.
...FRY IT UP.
JOWAWA (SIZZLE)
ONCE THE OLIVE OIL IS HOT...




## "LET'S CUT THE RED DRAGON" CUTLETS

(Serves 4)

Ingredients

| | |
|---|---|
| Giant frog thigh meat—1 | Onion—1 medium |
| Salt and pepper—To taste | Red wine—100 ml |
| Breading—To taste (Wheat flour, bread crumbs, water) | Garlic—1 clove |
| | Soy sauce—3 tbsp. |
| Butter—50 g | Sugar—1 tbsp. |


IT'S CRUNCHY.
THANKS FOR THE FOOD!
THAT LOOKS GOOD.
THE SMELL WOKE UP MY STOMACH.
I'M JUST OVERCOME WITH EMOTION TO REALIZE WE WON'T HAVE TO EAT MONSTERS FOR MUCH LONGER.
THERE'S STILL THE RED DRAGON.
JIWA (TEARY)
GUSUN (SNIFFLE)
WHAT'S WRONG, MARCILLE?
I DON'T THINK I COULD HAVE COME THIS FAR BY MYSELF.
KOTO (TUNK)
THERE'S ...
...SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO SAY.


SENSHI, SERIOUSLY, THANK YOU.
WE WERE TOTAL STRANGERS, BUT YOU WERE KIND TO US.
YOUR DELICIOUS MEALS SAVED OUR SPIRITS AS WELL AS OUR STOMACHS.
CHIL-CHUCK.
IF YOU HADN'T BEEN HERE, WE WOULD HAVE HAD TO DETOUR MANY TIMES, AND WE WOULD'VE BEEN DELAYED FOR DAYS.
I KNEW WE COULD DEPEND ON YOU.
AND MARCILLE.
I'M SORRY FOR MAKING YOU ROUGH IT WHEN YOU AREN'T USED TO TRAVELING.
WHEN YOU SAID YOU'D COME ALONG, I WAS REALLY HAPPY.


LOUSY TIMING!
YEAAH
SORRY...
GOKUN (SWALLOW)
MOGU
MOGU
MOGU
MOGU
MOGU
MOGU
MOGU (CHEW)
WHAT?
THE GROUND IS TREMBLING A B—
HM?
SOME-THING'S ...
KATA (RATTLE)
KATA
KATATA
ZUSHIN (WHUDOO)




IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE IT.
DID IT NOTICE US!?
BUT... LET'S GET AWAY FROM HERE FAST.

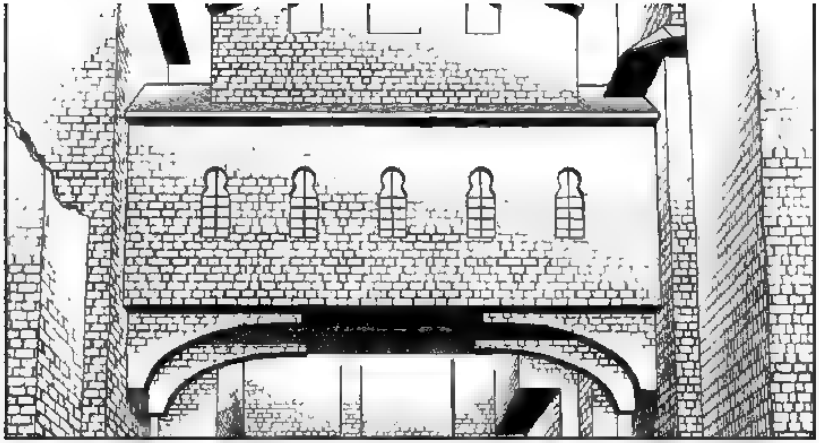

NO... IT CAN'T BE...
THE RED DRAGON IS BACK!?

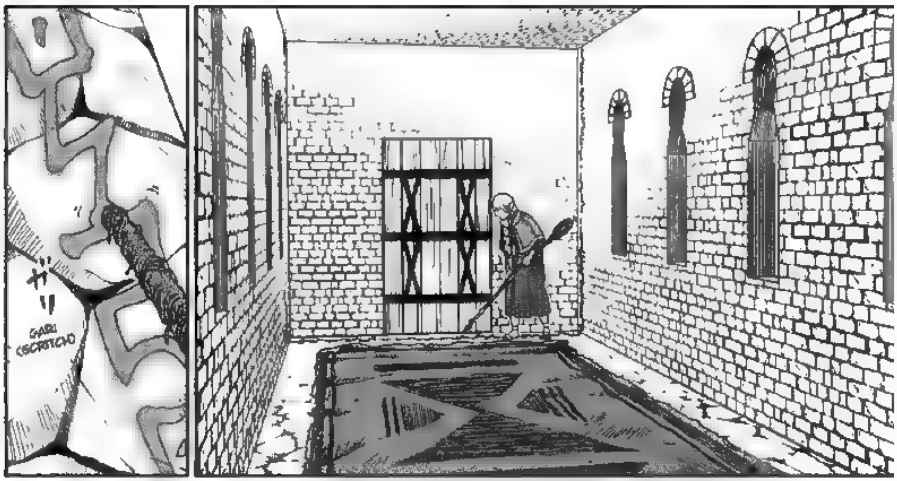

SUN (CRUNCH)
SUN
MEGHA (GRUNGE)
MEGHA (GRUNGE)
IT SURE IS HUGE, ISN'T IT?
CAN WE...
...REALLY WIN AGAINST THAT?

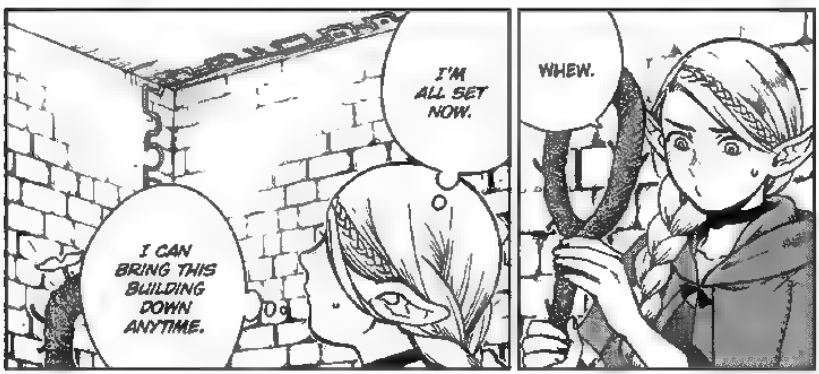



CHAPTER 23: THE END

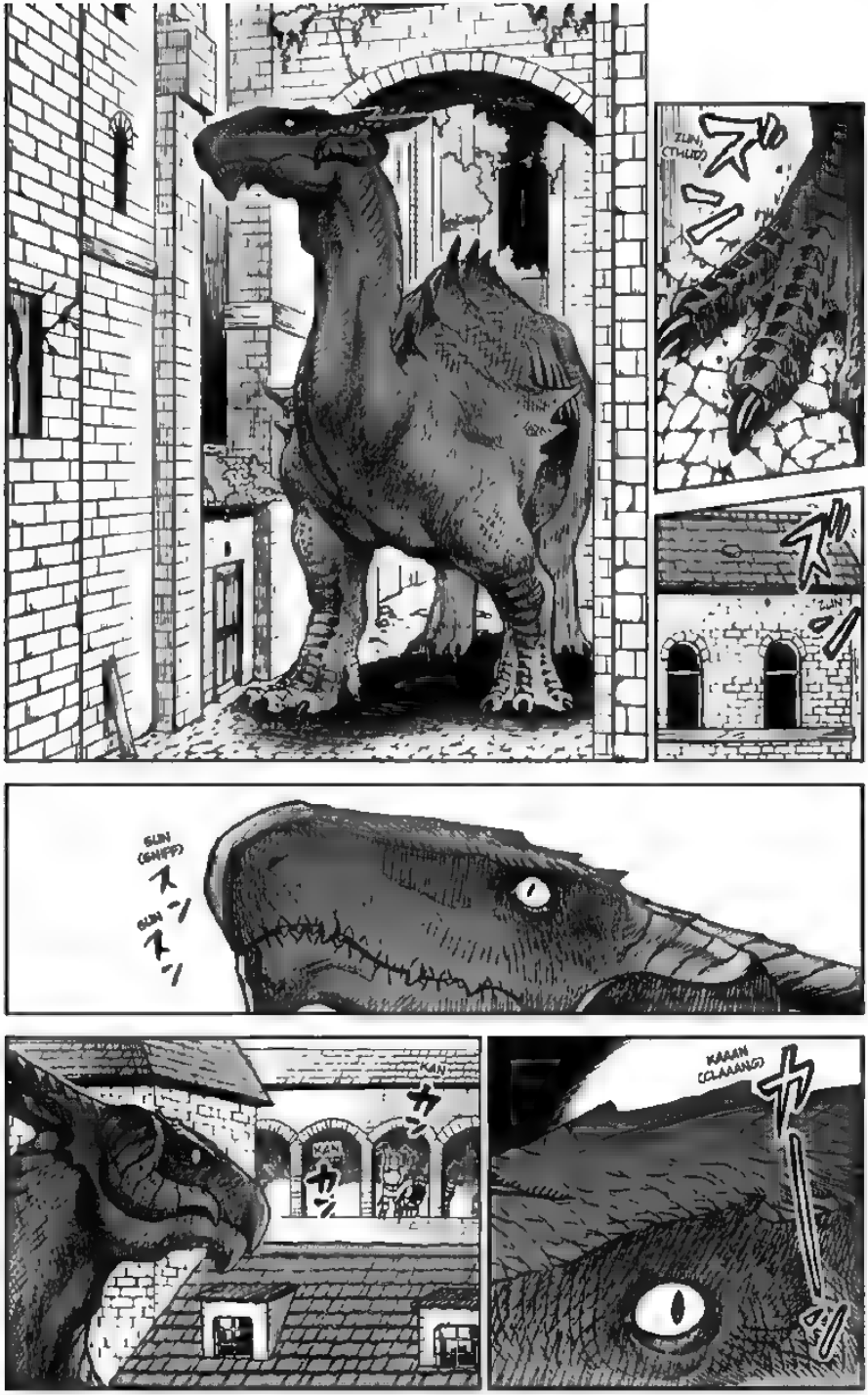

24. Red Dragon II

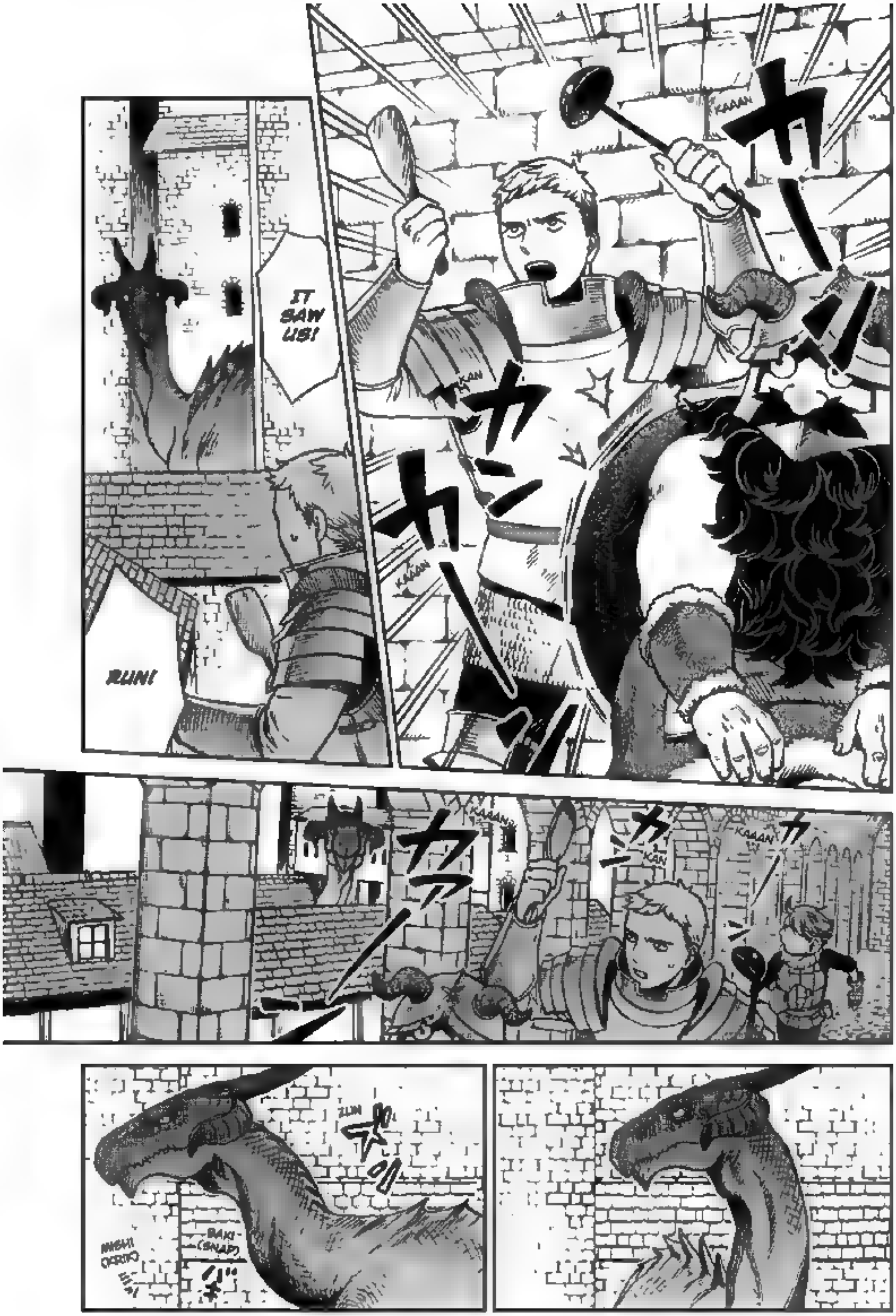



GARI
(SCRATCH)


I'M ALL SET NOW.
I CAN BRING THIS BUILDING DOWN ANYTIME.
WHEW.


AN EXPLOSIVE SPELL MIGHT MISS.
WE'RE ALL RISKING OUR LIVES.
...AND KNOCK OUT THE DRAGON.
I'LL USE ALL MY MANA...
THIS IS ALL RIGHT, ISN'T IT?
I'VE GOT QUITE A BIT OF LEEWAY.
MY MANA...
...IF THE OTHERS RUN INTO TROUBLE, I CAN COVER FOR THEM!
SINCE I HAVE EXTRA MANA...
YES. THIS WAY IS BEST, FOR SURE.
FLATTENING IT WITH A BUILDING IS MUCH SAFER.
JUST HANG ON, FALIN.
I WILL MAKE THIS WORK!
FWOO...
CALM DOWN. DEEP BREATHS.
FOCUS ON YOUR OWN JOB.


ZUN (THUD)
ズーン
ZUN
ズーン
ZUN (SNIFF)
スーン
ZUN
スーン
KAN
カン
KAN
カン
KAAAN (CLAAANG)
カーン!


IT SAW US!
RUN!
KAAN
KAAN
KAAN
KAAAN
KAAAN
KAAAN
ZUN
BAKI (SNAP)
NISHI (CRUNCH)


GASHA
GASHA GLANDO
FAST! IT'S FAST!
BY THE WAY, A RED DRAGON'S TOP SPEED IS 80 KM/H.
SAY THAT SOONER!
A HUMAN'S TOP SPEED IS 15-20 KM/H.
THE TERRAIN IS HOLDING IT BACK! IT'S OKAY!
TURN RIGHT AT THE CORNER!


WE'LL GET IT TO BREATHE FIRE DOWN THIS STRAIGHT ROAD!
DRAGONS SPIT FLAMES BY CLICKING THEIR TONGUES TO IGNITE THE FUEL THAT'S STORED IN THEIR BODIES.
WE'LL MAKE IT EXHAUST ITS FUEL TO KEEP IT FROM RAMPAGING ONCE WE RESTRAIN IT.
KAN
カン!
KAN
カンッ
KAN CLICK
GU-RAIND
GU
HIDE BEHIND THE POT!
THAT'S TONGU-ING!
HERE IT COMES!


GHK!

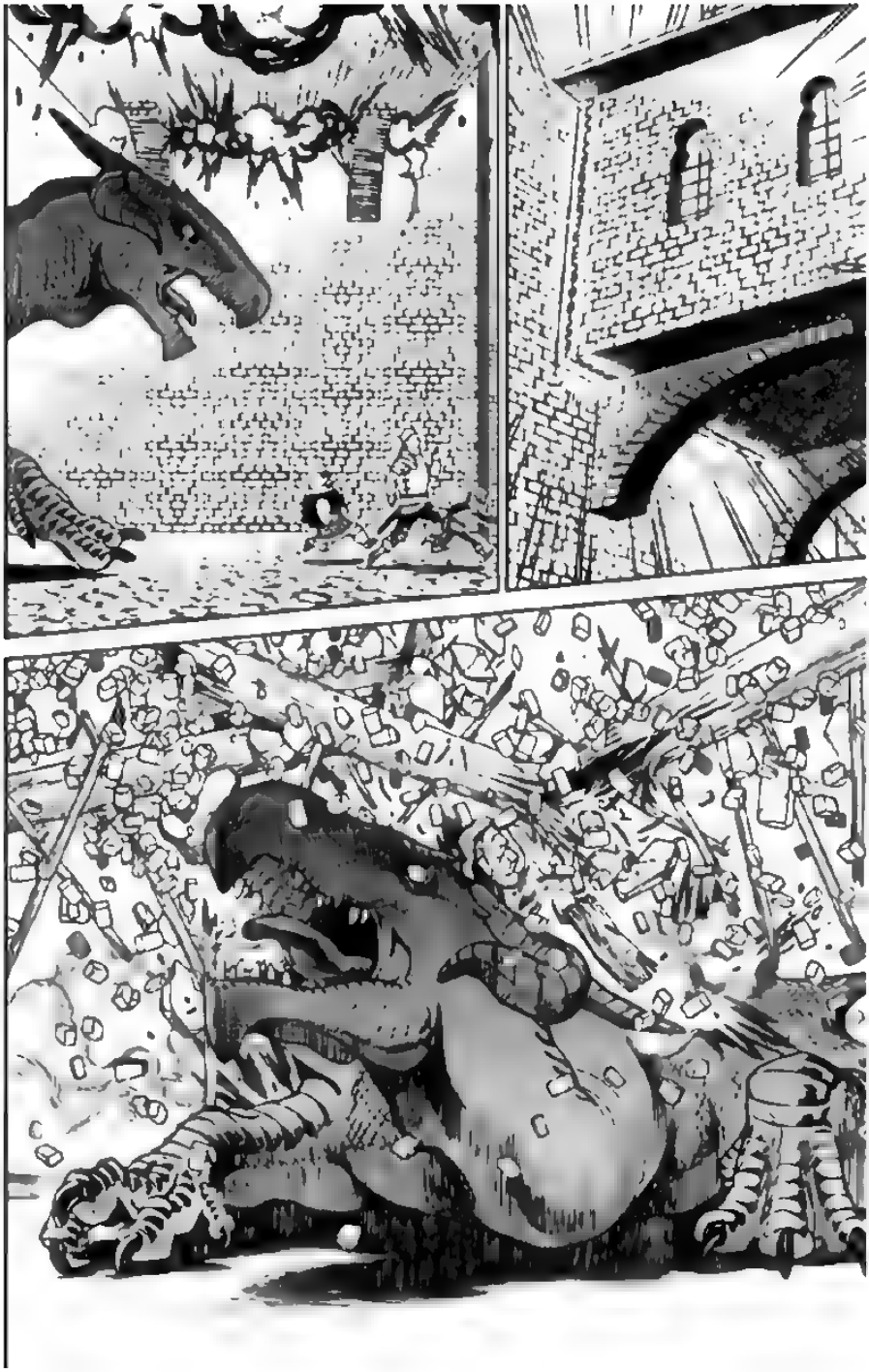

...THANKS TO THE POT AND THE SPELLS, WE CAN HANDLE IT!
WHAT- INCREDIBLE HEAT.
BUT...
GREAT! THIS IS GOING TO...
...SPREAD-ING EVENLY...
JIWA
JIWA (SEED)
THE HEAT IN THE POT IS...
THIS IS...


HOT!!
GARAAAN (CLATTER)
ガラーン
GARAAAN
ガラーン
SHIN (SILENCE)
シン
KARAN
カラン
KARAN (CLANG)
カラン
KARAN
カラン


NAMARI SAID ADAMANT BLOCKED ALL DRAGON ATTACKS.
THEN SHE WAS TALKING THROUGH HER HAT.
I WAS NOT
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT SPECIALLY DEFLECT DRAGON FIRE.
WELL, DUH! SENSHI COOKS WITH THAT EVERY DAY!
KAN
KA
KA (CLICK)
AGH! HERE IT COMES AGAIN!
KAN
KAN
WE HAVE NO CHOICE! LET'S CHANGE ROUTES!
(OOOF) (OOOOOM)


HM?
BOOO (DAZE)
KOOM (BOOM)
IT'S TOO SOON, ISN'T IT?
MAYBE THEY EXHAUSTED ALL ITS FIRE...
WHAT!? NO WAY! ALREADY !?


HUH? WHAT?
WEREN'T THEY GOING TO SPLIT UP!?
SHOULD I STICK TO THE PLAN OR WHAT!?
DO
DO
DO
DO
AAARGH! I DON'T GET IT!
I'M JUST GOING TO DO IT, ALL RIGHT!?




NH...
.....
.....


WAAUGH!
OH NO, NO, NO...!!
IT DIDN'T EVEN FAZE IT!!


.....
GHK...
SHH... DON'T MOVE.


KATA
KATA
GATA (SHIVER)
...I CAN REACH IT...!
KATA (SHAKE)
THE NVERSE SCALE IS RIGHT THERE!!
IF I GET JUST A LITTLE CLOSER...


HYUN (WHIRL)
HYUN
HYUN
HYUN
PAN (POP)
KARA
KARAAN
KARAAN (CLAAANG)


IT...
IT RAN.
ACK!
DAMMIT, KEN-SUKE...
...YOU—
LAIOS!! CHIL-CHUCK!!
IT REALLY IS JUST A MONSTER!
LOOK UP!
ON YOUR FEET!!


GET UNDER ITS BELLY!
LAIOS, YOU SLIMY LITTLE...
I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY, OKAY!?
ARGH! THE COMMON TONGUE DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH SWEAR WORDS!
AHH... I'M BEING CUSSED OUT IN A LANGUAGE I DON'T SPEAK.
AND IT'S REALLY CRUDE STUFF!


IT'S MAD. IT'S REALLY MAD.
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
PARA (COMPLIMENTED)
NO. TOO RISKY.
WE MIGHT BE STUCK UNDER ITS LEGS UNTIL WE DIE...
LET'S ESCAPE AT THE TAIL END.


SIMPLE CHANTS LIKE THAT WON'T WORK.
FOCUS ...
PAN (CLANG)
IRON (CLANG)
HANG ON! I'LL DO SOME-THING!
EEEK!
KAN (CLICK)
HRMPH!


NNI
GUSH (SMASH)
BUON (SWIPE)
YAGH!
GU (SHIFF)
...THERE'S NO OTHER WAY.
OUR ONLY WEAPON'S IN SPLINTERS...
WHAT DO WE DO NOW!?
WHY DID YOU DO THAT!?


USE THIS!
HUH ...?
SO IT IS SOME SPECIAL METAL!?
IT CUTS THE BONE AND SKIN OF ANY MONSTER.
I'VE TAKEN GOOD CARE OF IT. NEVER MISSED A DAY...
IT'S A MITHRIL KITCHEN KNIFE. MAYBE THE ONLY ONE IN THE WORLD.
I WISH WE'D SHOWN THIS TO NAMARI.
SHE MIGHT HAVE KILLED SENSHI.
HAAAH...
I DID GET THAT FEELING, SO I KEPT QUIET.
MITHRIL...!?
ARE YOU SERIOUS?


TCHI
GUHH CLINGED
WHY, YOU...!
WHOA!
IT REALLY DOES PIERCE DRAGON SCALES!!


BUT WITH A BLADE THIS SIZE, NO MATTER WHERE I CUT IT...
...I'M NOT SURE I CAN INFLICT A LETHAL WOUND...
.....
GRAAA
AAAGH!
BOOM
BOOM
WAAUGH!

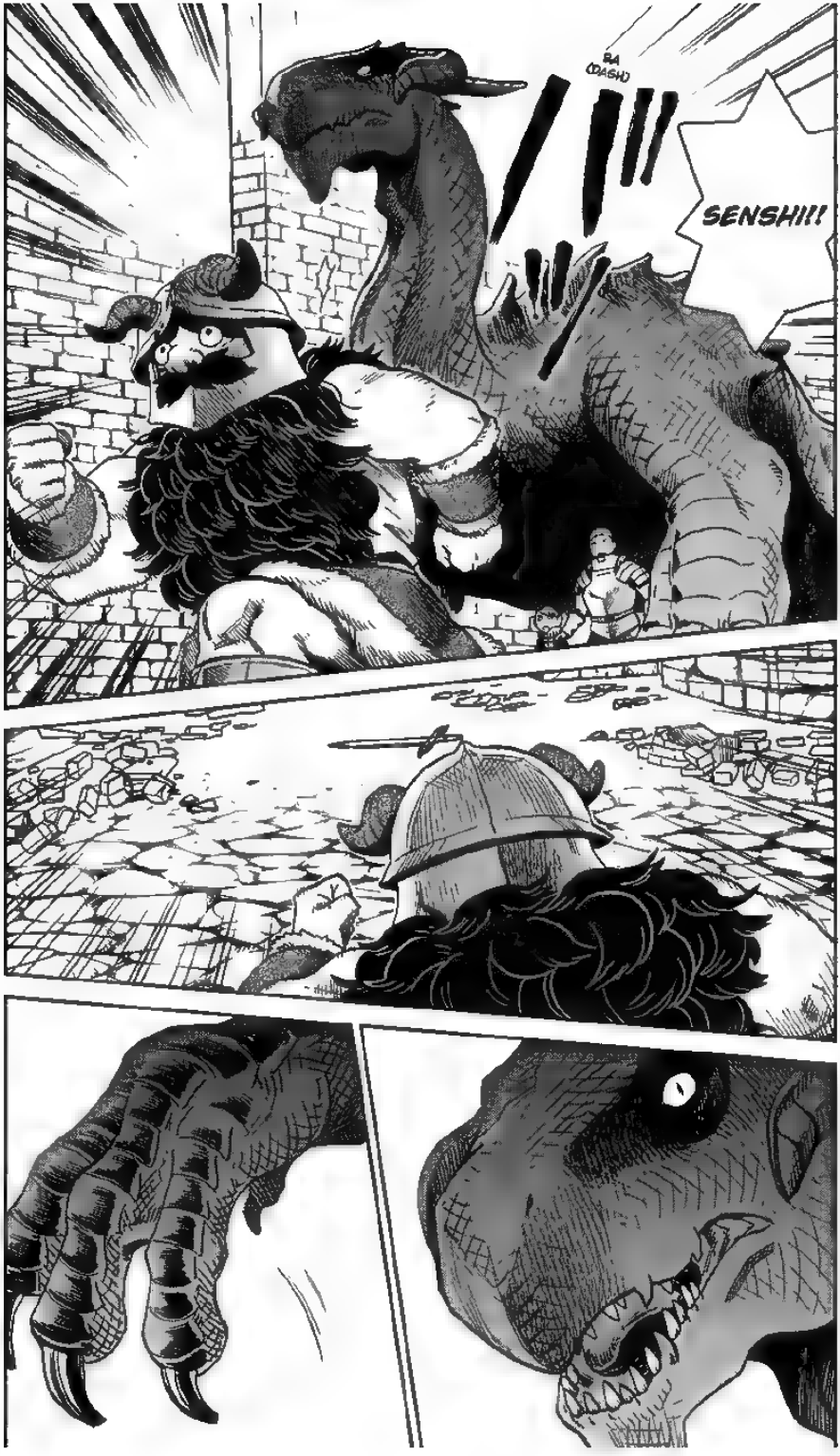


25. Red Dragon III


THE PLAN FAILED, RIGHT?
WHAT DO I DO? WHAT DO I DO?
WHAT IN THE WORLD SHOULD I...?
OR DO THEY HAVE ANOTHER PLAN?
THIS IS NO TIME TO HESI-TATE!
I WONDER IF THEY'RE OKAY.
I HOPE MY DEFENSE MAGIC IS HOLDING UP...


WAGH!
BACK, GET BACK!
HFF!
HFF!
MY WEAPON'S GETTING FARTHER AWAY.
...I'LL DISTRACT THE DRAGON.
IF WE KEEP BACKING UP, WE'LL BE IN THE PLAZA.
THEN THE FIRE-BREATH WILL BURN US TO CINDERS.

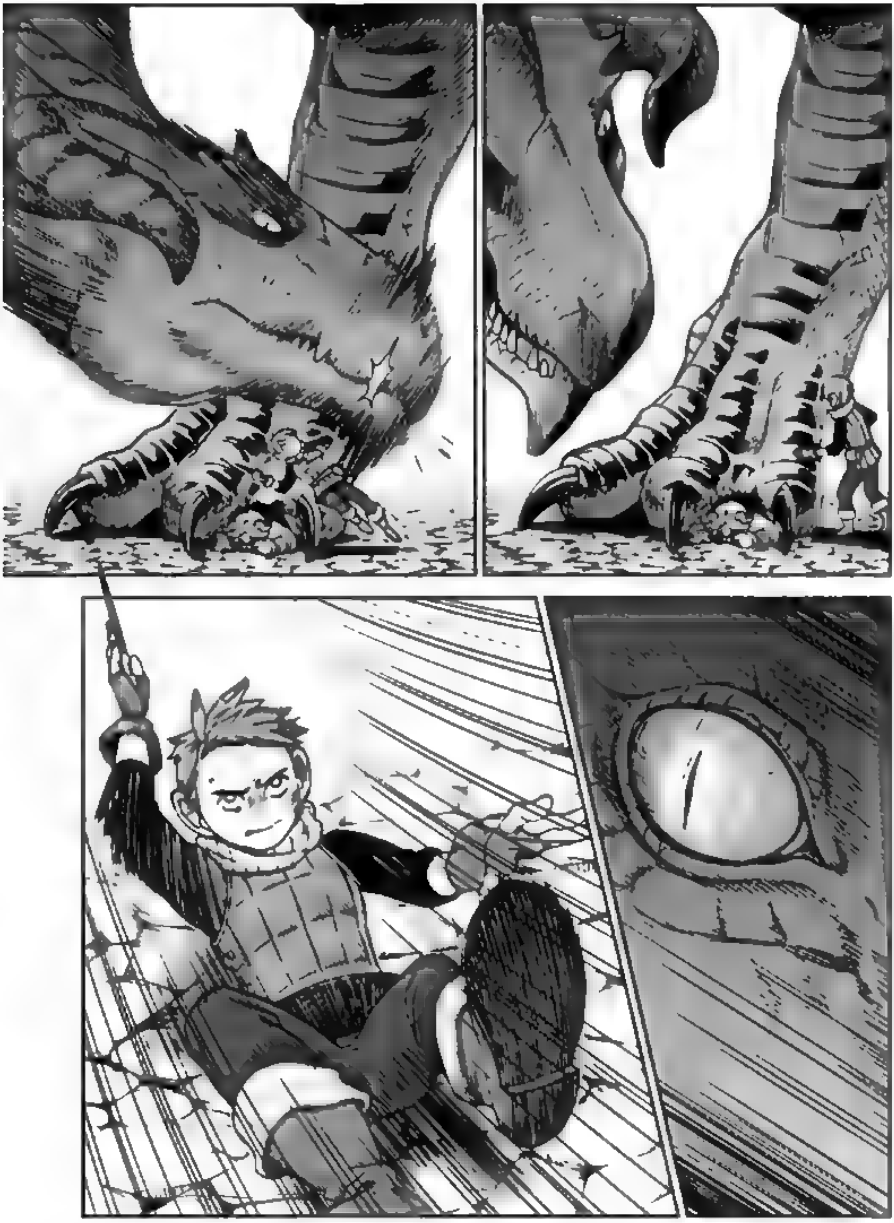

LAIOS, I KNOW YOU KNOW THIS.
DON'T! IT'S DANGER-OUS.
IF WE DON'T GIVE IT ALL WE'VE GOT, WE'RE THE ONES WHO'LL GET EATEN.
IT'S EAT OR BE EATEN HERE.
...DID ANY OF THEM NOT FIGHT WITH ALL THEY HAD?
OF THE MONSTERS WE'VE EATEN...
PREPARE YOURSELVES!


BA
(CRASH)
SENSHI!!


ZUN
(STOMP)
BOTATA
(DROP)
BLUGH
...


SEN...
UNGH!
ZUHLL (TROMP)
ZUHHAA (GRUNT)
YOU FALL BACK...
...GET MARCILLE, AND DO SOME-THING ABOUT THIS!
MORON! IF YOU DASH OUT THERE, THERE'S NO POINT!
I'LL CREATE AN OPENING!


CAN YOU MOVE?
.....
HEY! YOU ALIVE!?
I'LL GET THIS OFF OF YOU!




GEAA
YES!


GASHAA (SMASH)
PASH! (SNATCH)
LAIOS!
IT'S STUCK TO THE GROUND ...!
HUH!?
GU (STRAIN)
GU
BUCH! (SNAP)
BUCH!
GUWA (WRENCH)
MOVE!


I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!
SENSHI! GET UP!
UKH!

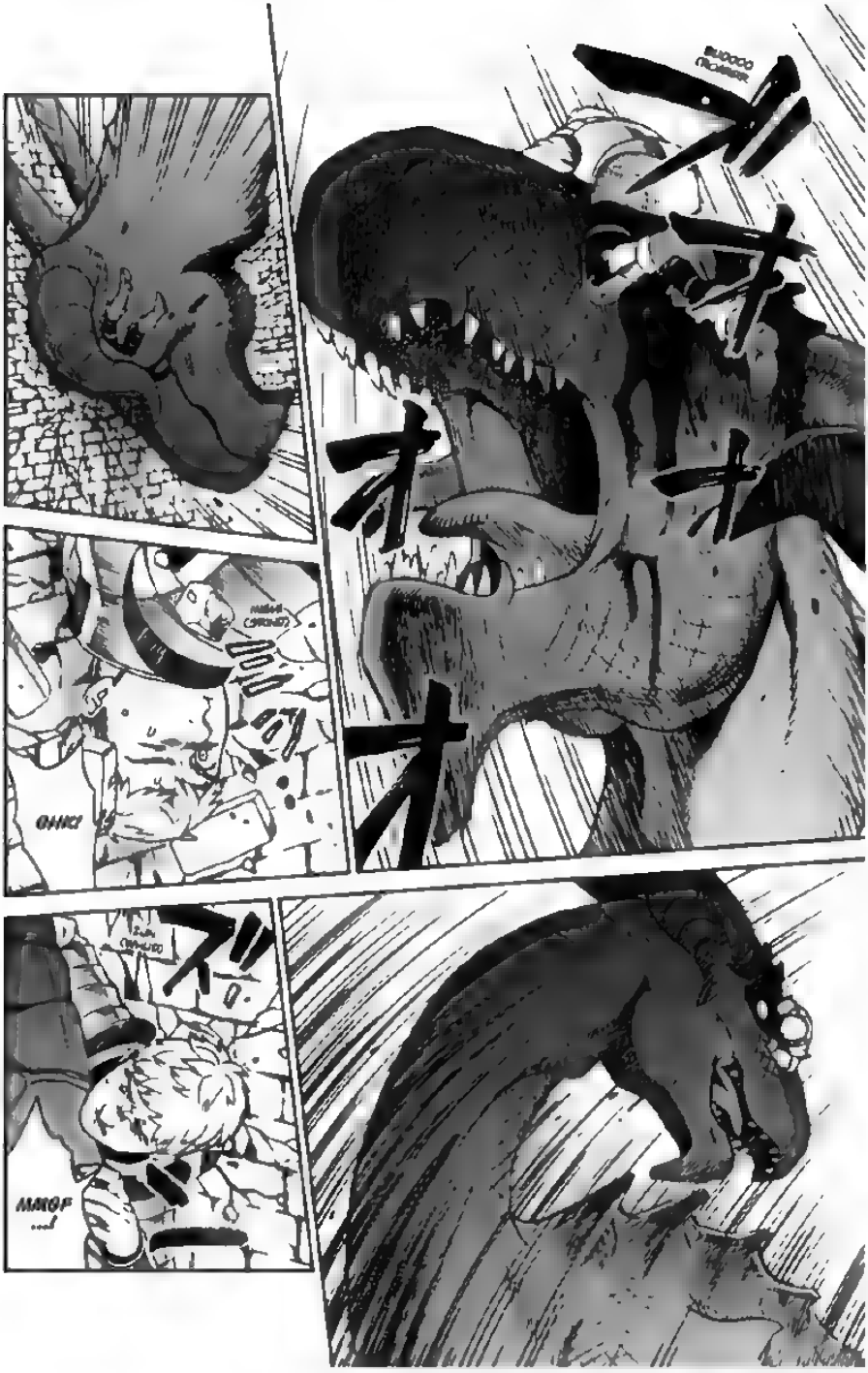

AH!
(DON'T (WHIP)
HAH!!
HAH!!
IT'S BAD.
ALL OUR PLANS FAILED.
WHERE ARE THE OTHER TWO?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THAT SPELL'S WORKING GREAT.
SORRY, MAR-CILLE!
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE HERE.
B-BUT WE HAVE TO ACT FAST, OR...
HANG ON. I'M THINK-ING.
OH, I SEE! MY SPELLS ARE ALL WE HAVE!
WH... WH-WH-WHAT DO WE DO!?
THE DRAGON'S WOUNDED AND VIOLENT. IT'S DANGEROUS TO GET CLOSE OR LET IT SEE US.
THEY'RE BY THE DRAGON'S FEET, OUT COLD.
WHAT!?


KEN-SUKE.
EXPLO-SIVE SPELLS ...
USE THE POT SOME-HOW...
GET THAT INVERSE SCALE...
WH-WHAT ARE WE DOING?
WE'LL GET LEVEL WITH THE DRAGON'S FACE.
...OKAY.
LET'S HEAD UP-STAIRS.
...AND YOU BLOW IT UP, MARCILLE.
WHA... WHAT!?
I'LL STAND ON THE POT...
HUH?


I SHOULD BE ABLE TO JUMP ON UNNOTICED.
BUT...
ブルン (SHAKE)
ITS LEFT EYE IS BLINDED.
IF WE APPROACH FROM THE LEFT, IT WON'T SEE US.
HOW CAN YOU STRIKE THE INVERSE SCALE IF YOU'RE ON TOP OF ITS HEAD?
AND AFTER THAT?
I'VE GOT AN IDEA.
BUT I HAD WATER AND WATER-WALK THEN...
THIS TIME WE'VE GOT DEFENSE SPELLS AND A POT.
YOU DID THIS BEFORE, REMEMBER?
WHEN WE FOUGHT THE UNDINE.
I DON'T INTEND TO.
...WE CAN'T MAKE ANY MORE MISTAKES.

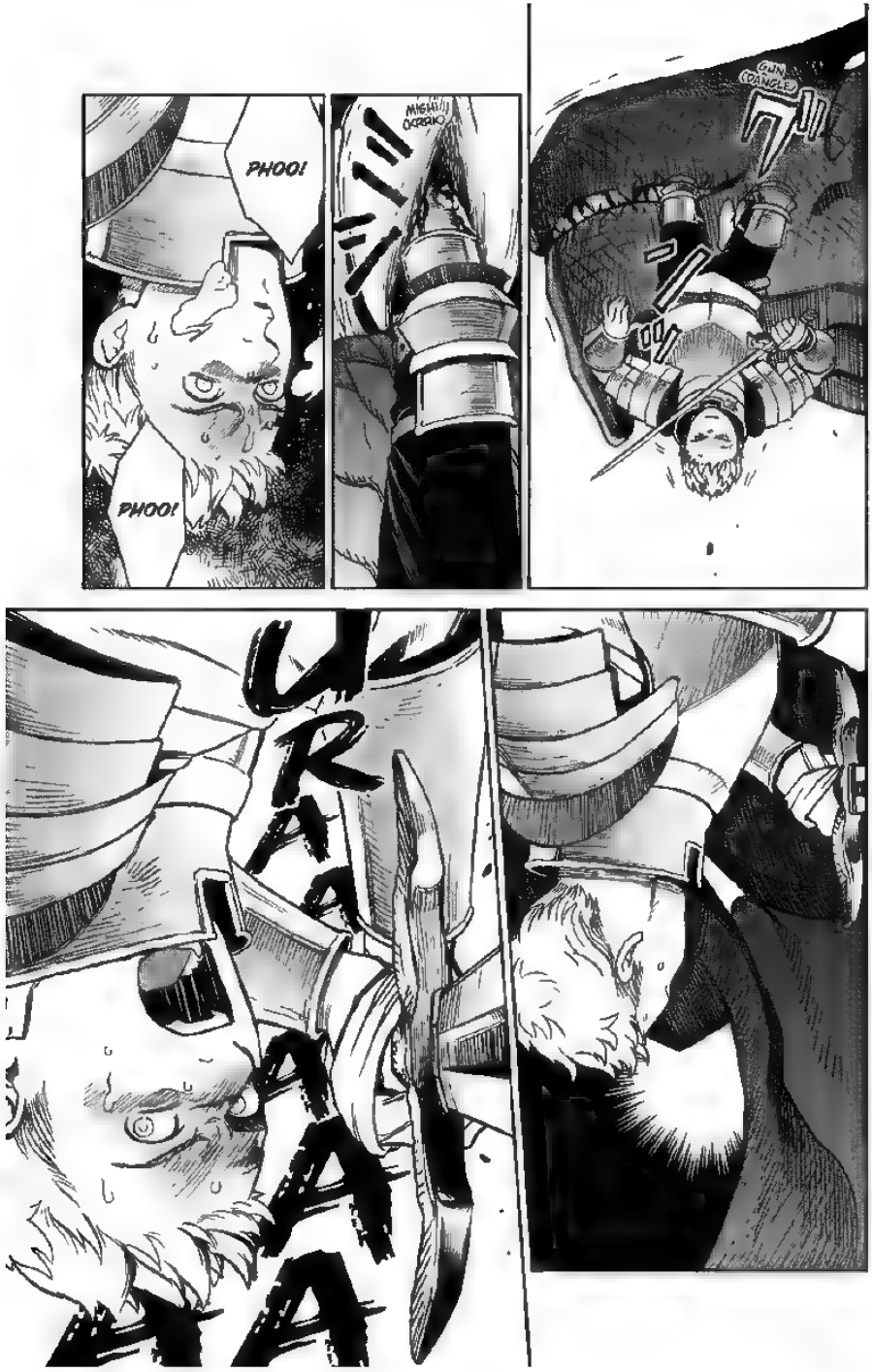

KAAA (FLAMMABLE)
OKAY. I TRUST YOU!!
YOU DO HAVE AN ACTUAL PLAN, RIGHT?
WE'RE REALLY DOING THIS?


BOW (BRUSH)
SWORD (CLANG)
H!

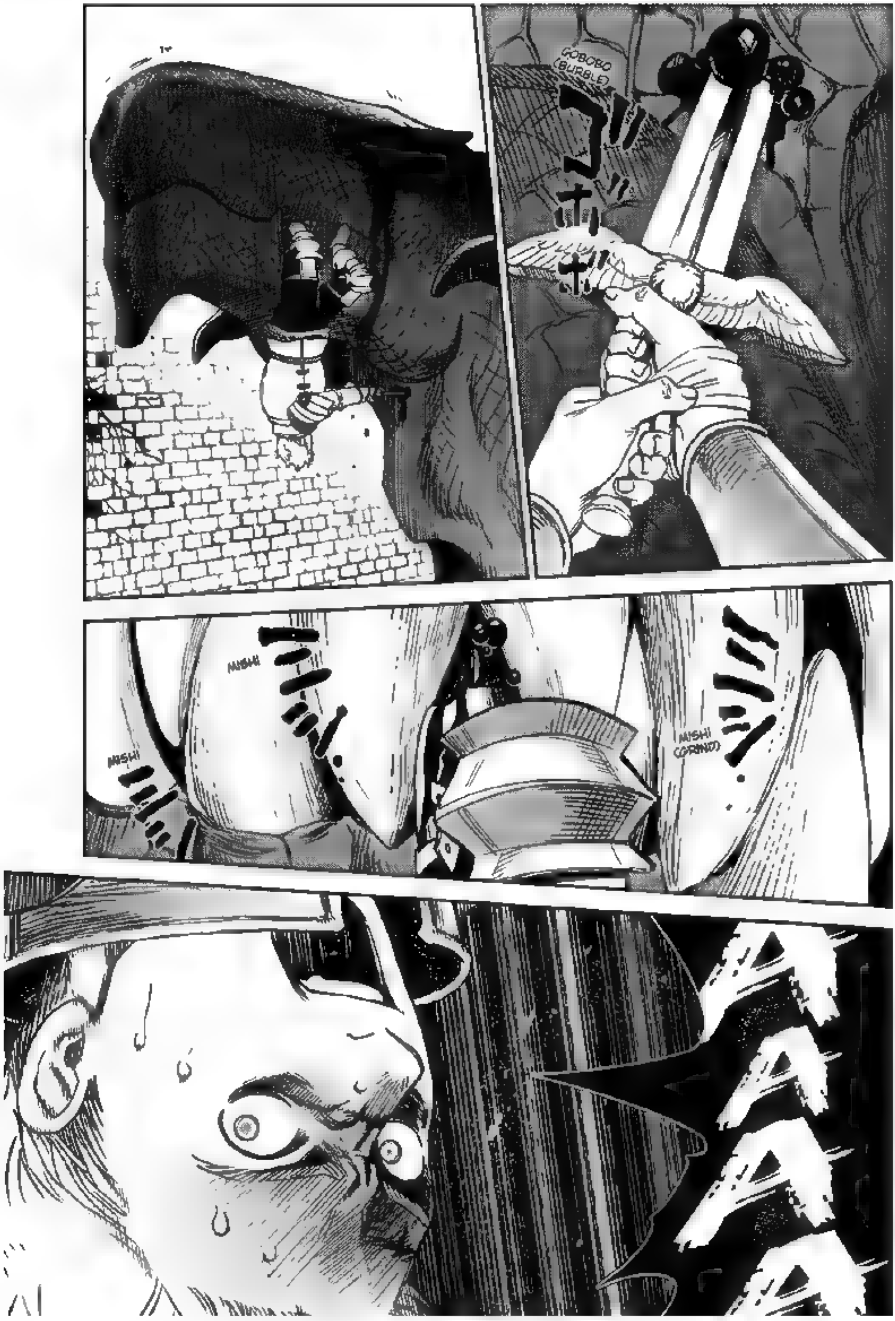

ВИООО
(Пыхание)
オオオオ
ННННА
(Звук)
ОНК!
ЗУ
(Звук)
ММФ
...!

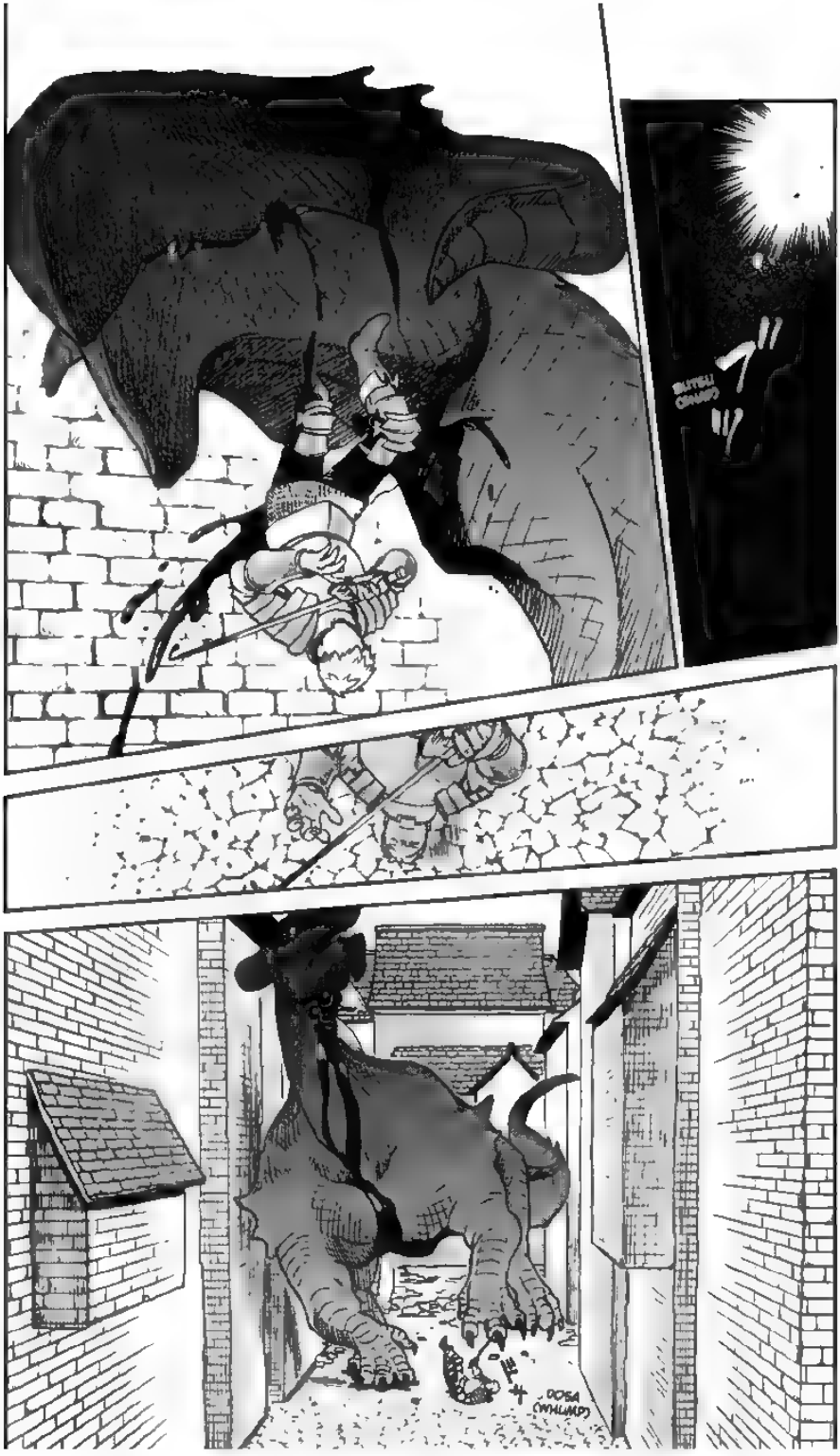

IT'S GOING TO SHAKE ME OFF.
HURRY, FOLLOW THE PLAN...
OOOOO OHHOOSHO
IT'LL BE OVER FAST.
IT'S NOTHING BIG.
NOT COMPARED WITH FALIN'S PAIN.


GACHIN (CRUNCH)
—!
LAIOS!
FU (SIGH)


PHOO!
PHOO!
MIGHTY OKRAKO
GUN (RANGE)
URA
AA



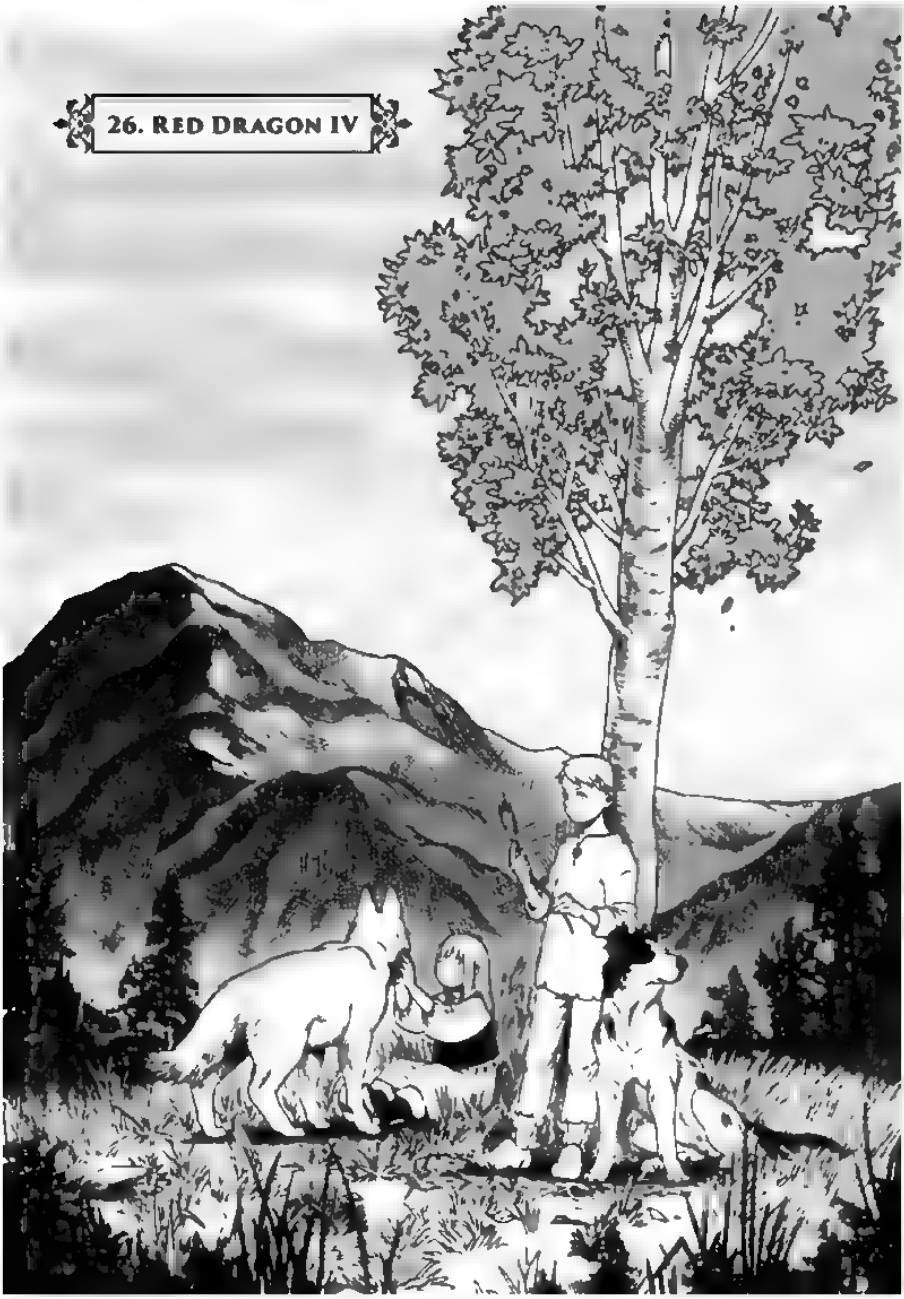

GOBOBO (BUBBLE)
MISHI
MISHI
MISHI (GRIND)


BUTTERCRUMPET
BOSCA (WHUMP)


KARA
CRASH
KARA
CRASH


NO, WAIT. BETTER TREAT THOSE TWO FIRST.
GUL'DAN
GOTTA HURRY AND SAVE FALIN.
I DID IT...
OR MAYBE STOP THE BLEED-ING?
I'LL HEAL THIS RIGHT AWAY.
...WHEN WE GET BACK...
HUH!?
DON'T MOVE!
IT'S OVER! IT'S OKAY NOW!
...GOOD IDEA.
THIS TIME...PAY ATTEN-TION...
UH-HUH.
...HAVE FALIN RETEACH YOU RECOVERY MAGIC.
CHAPTER 25: THE END

# 26. Red Dragon IV

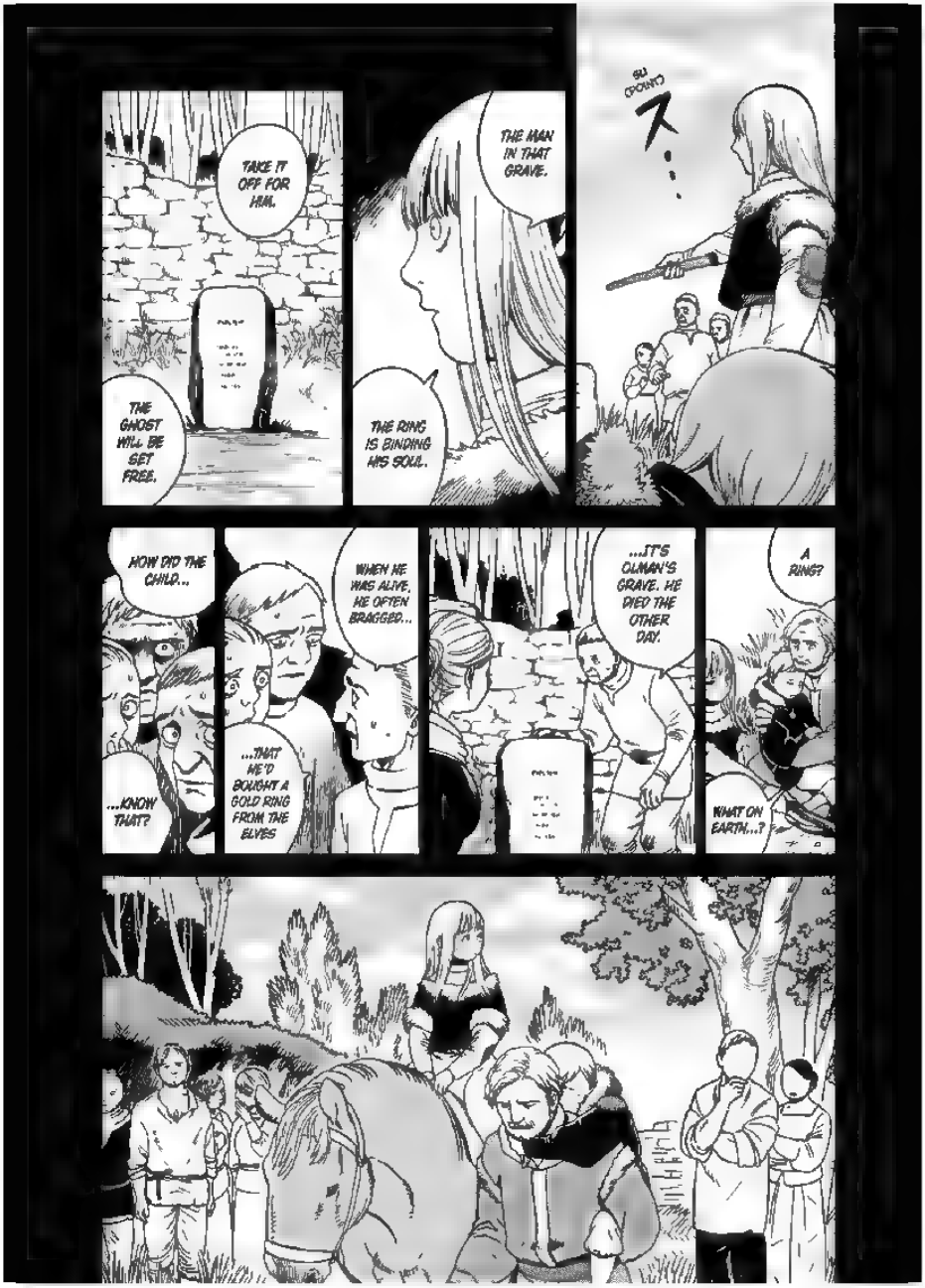



SHH! C'MERE.
BIG BROTHER LAIOS? WHY ARE YOU OUTSIDE OF FATHER'S ROOM?
FALIN.
WE SHOULD ALL PITCH IN AND HIRE A SHAMAN FROM TOWN.
BUT THAT'S EXPENSIVE
YOU CAN'T TRUST SHAMANS.
CHIEF TOLIDEN, IT WAS DEAD FOR SURE.
IT ATTACKS THE LIVING BECAUSE IT ENVIES THEM.
MY WIFE SAYS SHE SAW IT TOO.
YOU MIGHT GET HURT IF YOU TAG ALONG.
I'LL GO LOOK. I'VE NEVER SEEN A GHOST.
THEY SAY THERE'S A GHOST IN THE GRAVEYARD.
ELIN!
WAIT, LAIOS!
AGH! SHH!
ARF!
WOOF!


WHEEEEE!
DON'T CLING. IT'S HARD TO WALK.
IT'LL BE FINE.
BIG BROTHER...
GYU (SQUEEZE)
LET'S GO HOME, FALIN.
NOT EVEN A BUG.


BIG BROTHER! BIG BROTHER!
KARAN CLATTERS
WAAA
AAH!
Get it off...
Help me...
IT'S COLD.
I CAN'T BREATHE.
Get it off...
Help me...
ARF! WOOF!
LAIOS!
FALIN...
RUN...


LET MY BROTHER...
...GO!
HAAFH...
HAAFH
AAAAA
GYAA!


TAKE IT OFF FOR HIM.
THE GHOST WILL BE SET FREE.
THE MAN IN THAT GRAVE.
THE RING IS BINDING HIS SOUL.
SU (SOUND)
A RING?
...IT'S OLMAN'S GRAVE. HE DIED THE OTHER DAY.
WHAT ON EARTH...?
WHEN HE WAS ALIVE, HE OFTEN BRAGGED...
...THAT HE'D BOUGHT A GOLD RING FROM THE ELVES
HOW DID THE CHILD...
...KNOW THAT?


ADULTS ARE SCARED OF MAGIC, THAT'S ALL.
DON'T LET THEM GET TO YOU.
DID I DO SOMETHING BAD?
NO, IT WAS GREAT.
YOU'VE GOT A TALENT FOR GHOST MAGIC, FALIN.
"TRAVELING EXORCIST" SOUNDS FUN.
HEE HEE!
SURE, LIKE... A PRIEST, MAYBE?
OR A GRAVE-KEEPER?
A JOB?
YOU SHOULD STUDY IT FOR REAL.
THEN YOU'LL ALWAYS HAVE A JOB.
WOW, THAT DOES SOUND FUN!
WOULD YOU COME WITH ME, THEN?
OF COURSE!
YOU'D WANDER FOREIGN LANDS...
...AND SAVE PEOPLE IN TROUBLE.


BATA
OKIDO
BATA
OKIDO
OOOOOH! I REALLY, REALLY WANT TO GO!
BUT...
OH! THE DESERT WOULD BE FINE TOO.
I HEAR THERE'S A LAND OF TALKING DOGS THERE.
WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO?
HMM...
I WANT TO SEE THE OCEAN.
...IT MIGHT BE BETTER IF WE DIDN'T TRAVEL TOGETHER ANYMORE.
GOOD-BYE, BIG BROTHER LAIOS.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
FALIN? WHY...?


LAIOS? ARE YOU OKAY?
GYU (TUG)
BA (GOLD)
FOR NOW, I STOPPED THE BLEEDING.
I'LL GO FIND THE OTHER TWO.
AND YOUR LEG.
HANG ON JUST A BIT LONGER.
HAAH...
ZURU (SLUMP)
I'M GOING TO BRING YOU HOME. I PROMISE.
"DON'T WORRY," HUH?
DON'T SAY SAD THINGS LIKE THAT.

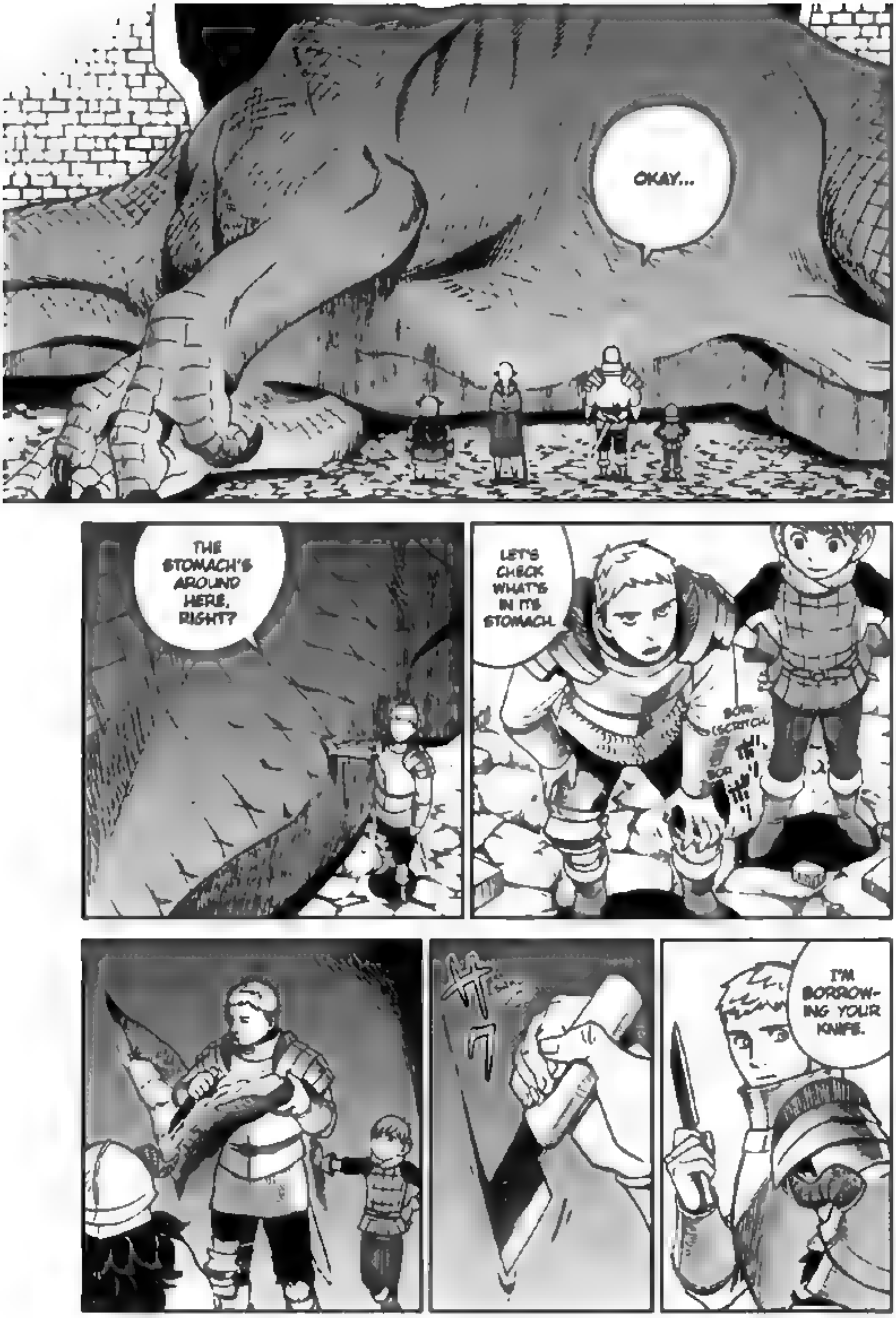

THERE YOU ARE!
WHEW! ARE YOU OKAY?
GARA (RATTLE)
ガラ
URGH...
HELLOOO? CHIL-CHUCK!
SENSHI ?
WELL....
...WE DIDN'T EXPLODE. COULD BE WORSE.
WOW. TWO LUMPS.
MY DEFENSE SPELLS NEED WORK.
...GUESS NOT, HUH?
HM.
BA (WHIP)
FUWA (GLOW)


GHK...
OWWW!
I'M FINE! I'LL HEAL ON MY OWN!
THAT WOULD TAKE MONTHS.
OKAY, SENSHI, YOU'RE NEXT.
IT'S FINE! IT PROVES HE'S HEALED UP RIGHT!
HE'S HURTING REAL BAD.
WHEN MAJOR WOUNDS HEAL QUICKLY, THE RECOVERY PANGS ARE...
GOKI GORAKO
AAAGH!
BOKI GORABOKI
BLRGH...
BONES SNAPPING INTO PEACE
UNI!? B-BUT ISN'T THAT WHY IT HURT—
...CONFIDENCE IN MY SPEED.
GU (GRIT)
FALIN WAS ESPECIALLY GOOD AT HEALING.
BUT EVEN I HAVE...


...YOU'RE SURE IT'S IN HERE?
YES, IF IT DIDN'T SPASM AND SWALLOW IT.
(GY (STRAIN)
HEY.
YECH. YOU WEREN'T KIDDING.
THAT GUY REALLY IS NUTS.
THAT GUY'S WHY WE WON. YOU'D BETTER THANK HIM.
DOSU (PLUMP)
どす
POI (TOSS)
FOUND IT.


HERE. STICK OUT YOUR LEG.
LAIOS.
BIKU TWITCH
RECOVERY PANGS.
IT ITCHES ON THE INSIDE.
IT STUCK BACK ON!


THANKS TO YOU ALL, YES.
IF ANY ONE OF US HAD BEEN MISSING, WE WOULDN'T HAVE WON.
YOU REALLY BEAT THE RED DRAGON!
WELL DONE, LAIOS.
WELL, AS LONG AS WE WON, RIGHT?
I UNDER-ESTIMATED IT A BIT.
IT WAS BLOOD-CURDLING.
FOR A LITTLE WHILE, I THOUGHT WE WON'T MAKE IT.
RIGHT...
I HAVEN'T FORGIVEN YOU FOR THAT YET.
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A GOOD, LONG TALK LATER.
KEN-SUKE.
ONLY... HERE, LAIOS.

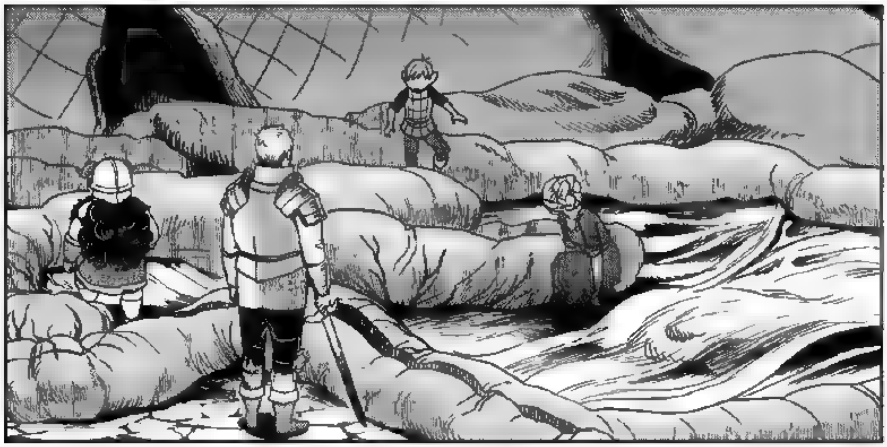

OKAY...
THE STOMACH'S AROUND HERE, RIGHT?
LET'S CHECK WHAT'S IN IT'S STOMACH.
SCRI-SCRITCH
SCRI
I'M BORROW-ING YOUR KNIFE.

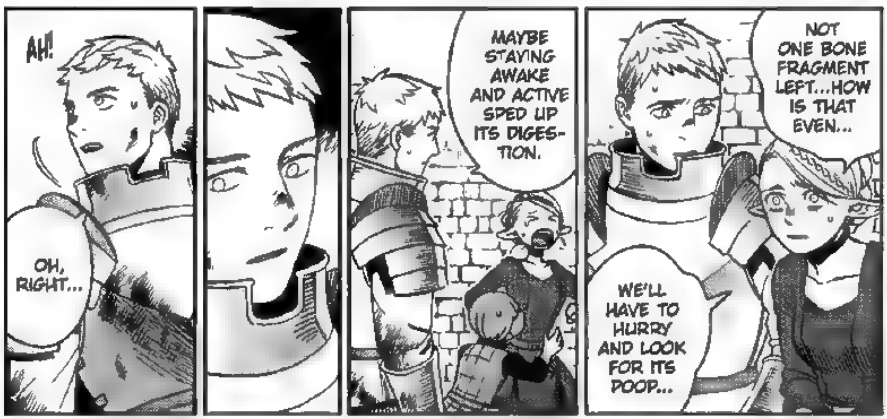

THE SKIN'S REALLY THICK.
THAT EXPLAINS WHY I COULDN'T EVEN REACH THE SUBCUTANEOUS FAT WHEN I FOUGHT WITH THE KNIFE.
DON (THUD)
DRAGONS' INSIDES SHOULD BE THE SAME AS OTHER CREATURES'.
LET'S JUST CARVE OUR WAY IN, BIT BY BIT.
REACHING THE STOMACH IS GOING TO BE A JOB AND A HALF.
WANT ME TO BLOW IT UP?
IT'S A RIB.
LET'S DETOUR A BIT AND KEEP DIGGING.
GASH
ガキ

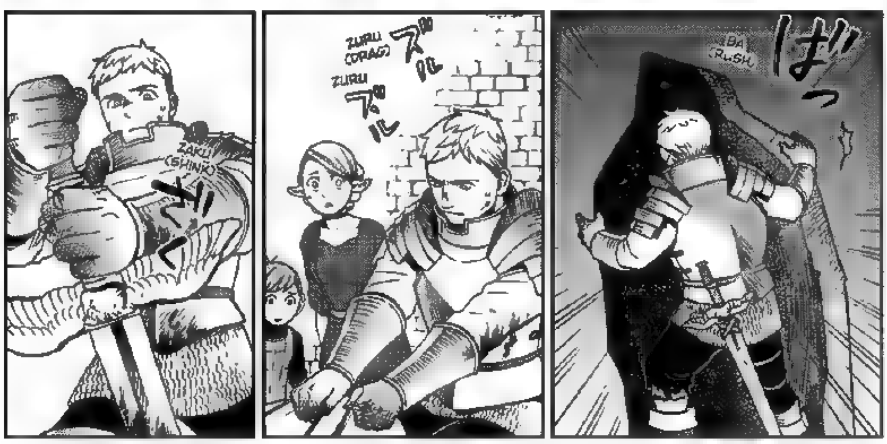

DO GLOW
DO
...
IT'S DARK. WANT TO LIGHT A LANTERN?
WE CAN'T USE FIRE.
MARCILLE. LIGHT, PLEASE.
THIS REMINDS ME OF MY TIME IN THE COAL MINES.
IT'S HOT.
PHEW.
!
THIS IS... WHAT, THE LIVER?
THE STOMACH MUST BE PRETTY CLOSE, THEN.
HM!


IT'S THE STOMACH!
LET'S TAKE IT OUTSIDE.
OKAY. I'M OPENING IT.
スリ
スリ
AH!


EMPTY...
MAYBE IT WAS A DIFFERENT DRAGON?
TON (THP)
NO...
NO.
YORO (STAGGER)
LET'S CHECK ITS INTESTINES TOO.
MALE
FEMALE
IT WAS MALE, HUH?
MALES ARE VERY TERRITORIAL. I DON'T THINK THERE WOULD BE MANY THIS CLOSE TOGETHER.
NO.
IT HAD THE SAME SCAR ABOVE ITS EYE.




AH!
OH, RIGHT...
MAYBE STAYING AWAKE AND ACTIVE SPED UP ITS DIGESTION.
NOT ONE BONE FRAGMENT LEFT...HOW IS THAT EVEN...
WE'LL HAVE TO HURRY AND LOOK FOR ITS POOP...


ZAKU (SHINK)
ZURU (DRAG)
ZURU
BA (RUSH)


UGH!
WHAT'S THIS?
A BOLUS OF FUR AND BONES.
DEPOSIT (CLORP)
RED DRAGONS DON'T SPIT THEM OUT. THEY USE THEM AS FIRE-BREATH FUEL.
THIS BLACK FUR MEANS IT ATE A FEW WARGS. AND...
SOME ANIMALS THAT SWALLOW THEIR PREY WHOLE...
...SPIT OUT ALL THE INDIGESTIBLE BITS AT ONCE.
LET'S UNTANGLE IT.
THERE MIGHT BE HUMAN BONES MIXED IN.
A-A HAIR...
THAT'S ...!


SAY, LAIOS!
THIS STAFF!
HEY. ISN'T THIS STICK...?
FA...
FALIN?
CHAPTER 26: THE END

# 27. Red Dragon V



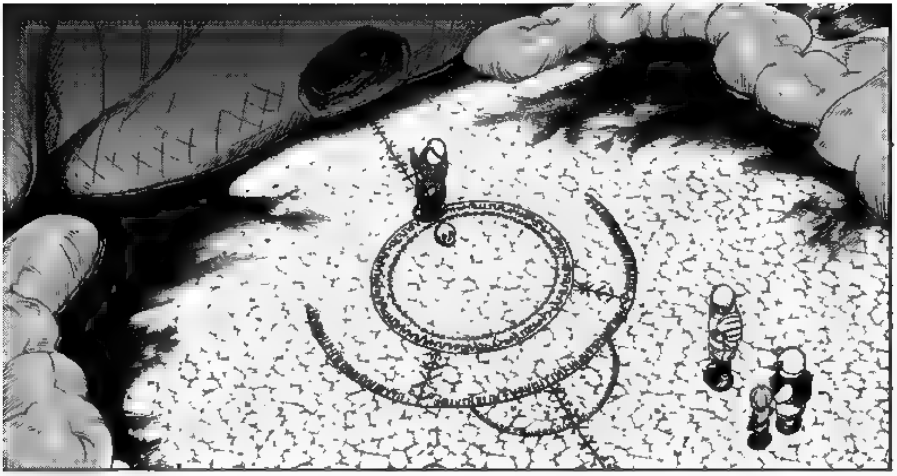

IT CAN'T BE...
FALIN...
.....
IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S NEVER BEEN DONE, BUT...
CAN...
CAN A PERSON COME BACK FROM THAT?
WE DON'T KNOW YET.
I'LL TAKE THESE TO THE RES-URRECTION OFFICE.
H-HEY, LAIOS...
(GRAB)
ガッ
BA! (VSH)


I'LL HELP.
I CAN'T TELL THEM APART, SO...
YOU'RE TAKING ALL OF THEM?
AREN'T THERE WARG BONES IN THERE TOO?
WAIT!
AH!
THE MORE DAMAGED THE BODY, THE SHAKIER THE SOUL BOND.
WHEN RESURRECTIONS FAIL, IT'S USUALLY BECAUSE THE SOUL WAS GONE...
...OR THE BODY WASN'T FULLY REPAIRED.
THE LINK BETWEEN HER SOUL AND BODY IS FRAGILE NOW.
IT'S DANGEROUS TO MOVE HER.

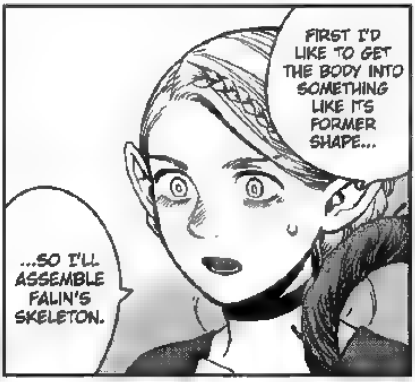

BUT RESTORATION REQUIRES MORE THAN TWICE THE CA..ORIES OF THE DAMAGED PARTS...
...SO THEY'LL NEED TO BRING A LOT OF FRESH MEAT AND BLOOD WITH THEM.
ILL CONFIRED
...GO GET A REVIVIFIER AND RESURRECT HER HERE.
THEN WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
HUH?
RIGHT.
...NO.
BUT IT'LL ROT ON THE WAY...
WE HAVE A MOUNTAIN OF FRESH MEAT AND BLOOD RIGHT HERE.


I DIDN'T WANT TO TELL YOU BECAUSE IT WOULD SCARE YOU, BUT...
YOU'RE GOING TO RESURRECT HER!? WITH DRAGON MEAT!?
REVIVI-FICATION ISN'T YOUR FIELD.
WAIT... HOLD IT!
I THINK IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO RESURRECT HER NOW.
IT'S NOT RESPECT-ABLE, BUT...
...MY SPECIALTY IS RESEARCHING ANCIENT MAGIC THAT'S CURRENTLY FORBIDDEN.
THERE'S NO GOOD OR EVIL IN MAGIC.
WHAT DO YOU SAY, LAIOS?
WHA...?
BLACK MAGIC, HUH!?
DON'T. THAT STUFF'S NO GOOD.


LEAVE IT TO ME.
I'LL GET IT DONE...
DO IT, MARCILLE.
BRING FALIN BACK. PLEASE...!
MARCILLE.
THEY NORMALLY USE GOATS OR PIGS.
THAT PART'S NOT A BIG DEAL.
ARE YOU TWO INSANE?
USING DRAGON FLESH IS JUST...
KARI (SCRATCH)
SHU (SLIT)




I SEE.
I KNOW A LITTLE ABOUT CANINE SKELETONS.
I'LL PUT THE WARGS TOGETHER.


FIRST I'D LIKE TO GET THE BODY INTO SOMETHING LIKE ITS FORMER SHAPE...
...SO I'LL ASSEMBLE FALIN'S SKELETON.


THAT'S NOT REALLY NECESSARY, IS IT!?
IT MIGHT HELP US NOT TO MISS THINGS OR GET CONFUSED!!

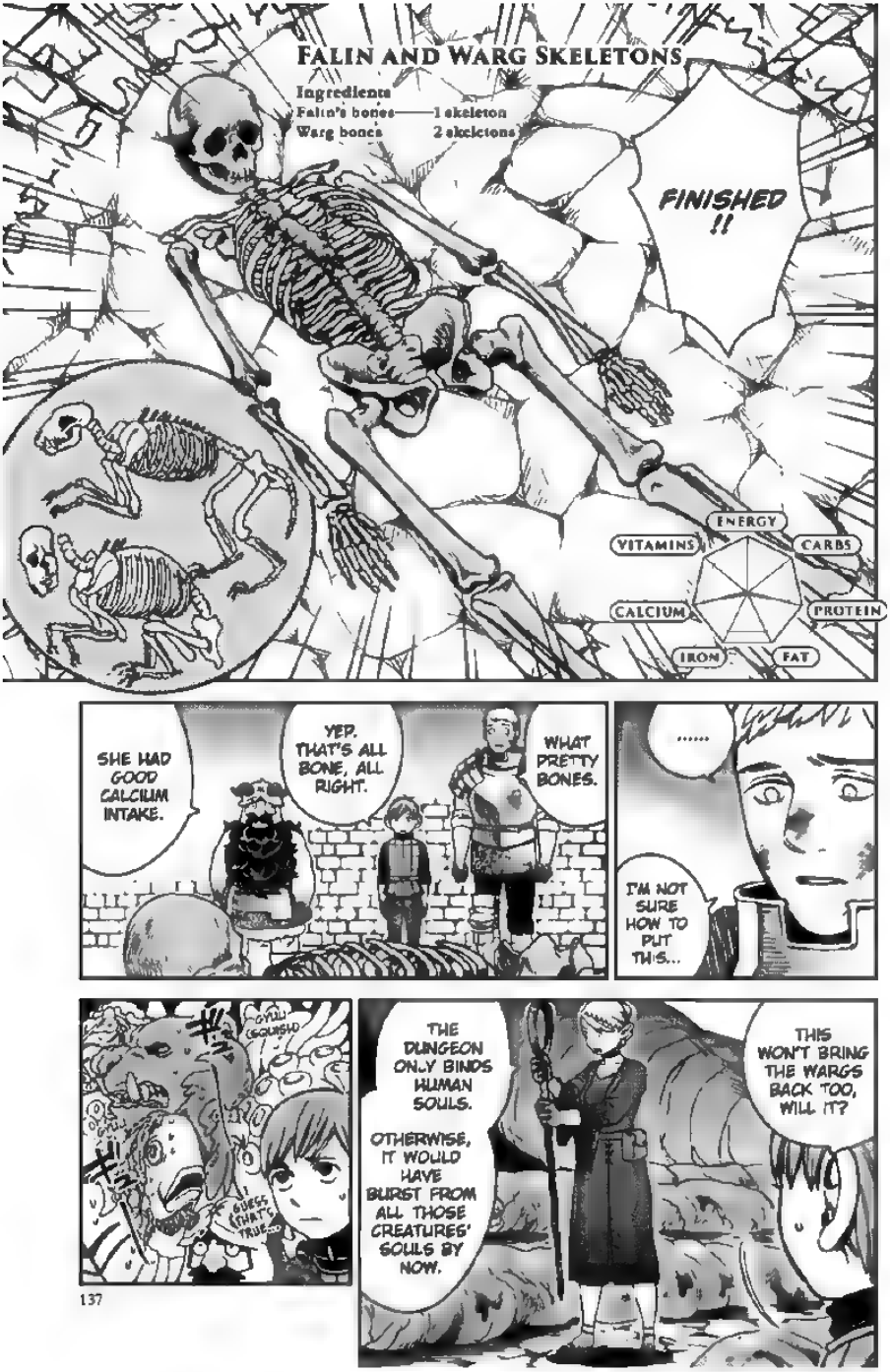

.....


HM?

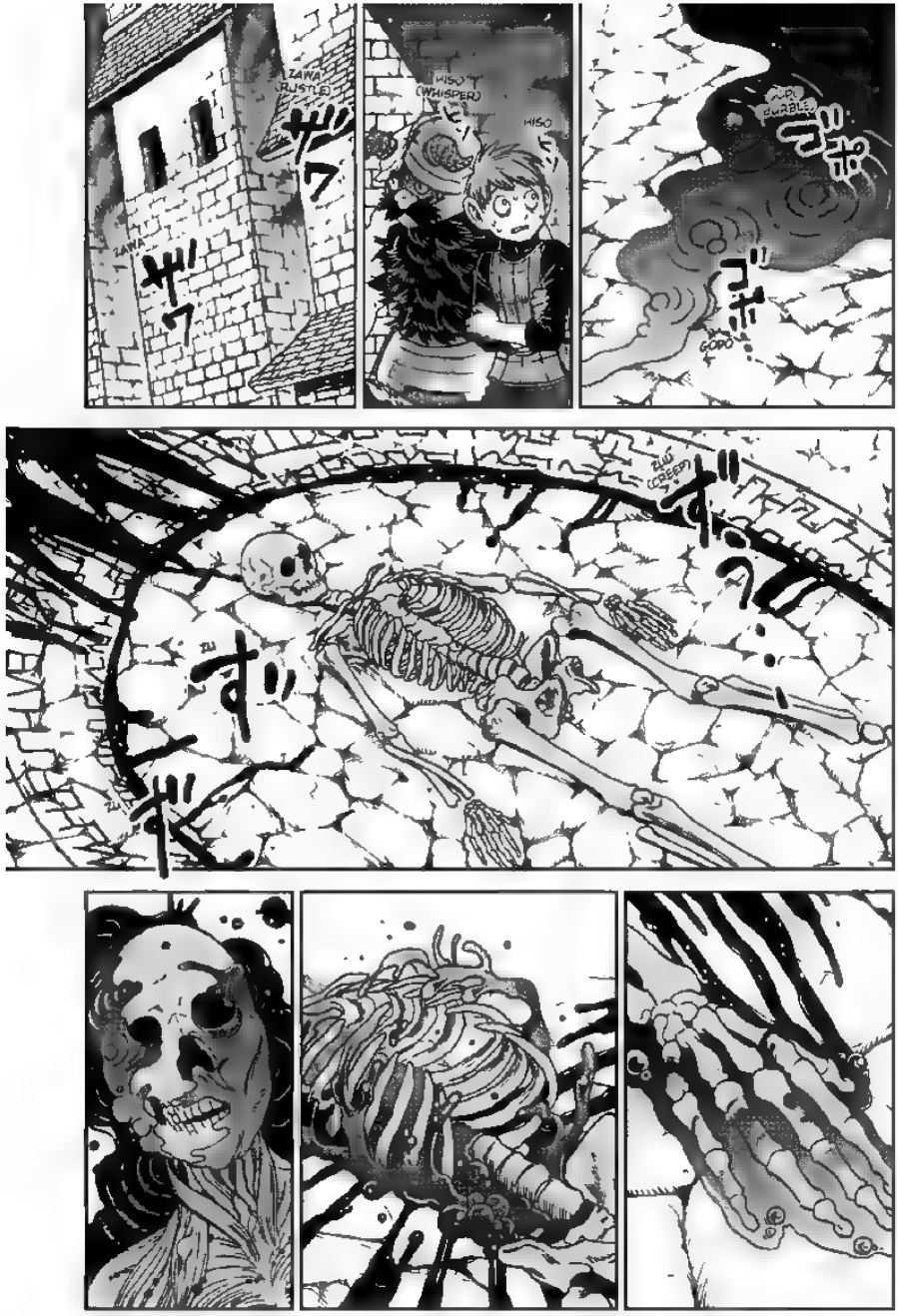

HUH?
THEN WE'VE GOT 840 BONES HERE.
THAT MANY?
AND FROM THE SKULLS, THERE ARE TWO OF THEM.
BECAUSE DOGS HAVE ABOUT 320 BONES.
HUMANS HAVE ABOUT TWO HUNDRED BONES.
TWO BONES FROM ELBOW TO WRIST. TWO FROM KNEE TO ANKLE.
...THE PELVIS, FEMUR, AND HUMERUS.
FIRST ...
IF WE START WITH THE OBVIOUS ONES, WE'LL BE FINE.
THEY DO LOOK VERY DIFFERENT.
THE ROUNDER ONES ARE HUMAN RIBS.
IF THEY'RE LIKE DOGS, WARGS HAVE THIRTEEN PAIRS.
AND NO CLAVICLES.
PLUS THE CLAVICLES.
TWELVE PAIRS OF RIBS.
THE PROBLEM IS...
THESE CURVES ARE VERY DIFFERENT, TOO, SO THEY'RE EASY TO TELL APART.
THEN THE SPINE CONNECTS TO THE RIBS.


I CAN'T TELL THESE APART AT ALL.
JUST START WITH THE ONES THAT STAND OUT.
...THE SMALL BONES IN THE HANDS AND FEET.
THERE ARE A LOT OF THEM, HUH?
ONCE WE ELIMINATE THE WARG BONES...
...LET'S FIND THE BONES FOR HUMAN FEET.
HUMAN
DOG
DOGS ARE BUILT TO STAND ON THEIR TOES.
MAYBE IT'S A WARG METATARSAL, THEN.
THIS LONG BONE...
...ISN'T A HUMAN ONE.
WOW. THEY MATE PERFECTLY.
KACHI CLICK!
WELL-MADE, AREN'T THEY?
LINE UP THE BIG BONES SO THEY FIT...
...AND THE INSTEP IS DONE.
THIS IS AN ANKLE BONE. IT'S THE BIGGEST ONE.


I GET IT! THEY GO LIKE THIS, RIGHT?
NOW FOR THE HAND BONES...
ALTHOUGH THE MIDDLE FINGER HAS THE LONGEST PROXIMAL PHALANX.
PROXIMAL PHALANX
META-CARPAL
RIGHT WAY
SO CLOSE!
THE META-CARPAL IS LONGEST ON THE INDEX FINGER, NOT THE MIDDLE FINGER.
COME TO THINK OF IT, THAT'S TRUE.
WE SHOULD START WITH THE FINGERS HERE.
HINT, PLEASE.
QUIT MAKING A GAME OUT OF THIS.
JUST THE CARPAL BONES NOW. THEY LINK THE FINGERS AND WRIST.
AROUND HERE.
OKAY...
WE MANAGED TO USE UP ALL THOSE BONES.
THAT LOOKS ABOUT RIGHT.
HAMATE
CAPITATE
PISIFORM
TRIQUETRUM
LUNATE
SCAPHOID
TRAPEZIUM
TRAPEZOID
WE DID IT!


FALIN AND WARG SKELETONS
Ingredients
Falin's bones——1 skeleton
Warg bones——2 skeletons
FINISHED !!
ENERGY
CARBS
PROTEIN
FAT
IRON
CALCIUM
VITAMINS
SHE HAD GOOD CALCIUM INTAKE.
YEP. THAT'S ALL BONE, ALL RIGHT.
WHAT PRETTY BONES.
.....
I'M NOT SURE HOW TO PUT THIS...
GYUU (SQUISH)
GYUU
GUESS THAT'S TRUE...
THE DUNGEON ONLY BINDS HUMAN SOULS.
OTHERWISE, IT WOULD HAVE BURST FROM ALL THOSE CREATURES' SOULS BY NOW.
THIS WON'T BRING THE WARGS BACK TOO, WILL IT?


ALL RIGHT...
I'M STARTING.
FWOO...
THUD
TONK (THUMP)


ZAWA (RUSTLE)
ZAWA
ZAWA
HISO (WHISPER)
HISO
GOPO (GURGLE)
GOPO
GOPO
SU (CREEP)
SU
SU






MAR-
CILLE!


WHAT HAPPENED?
DID IT WORK?
SHE FAINTED.
I DON'T KNOW...
HWOO...
HA
PACK-CRUNCH

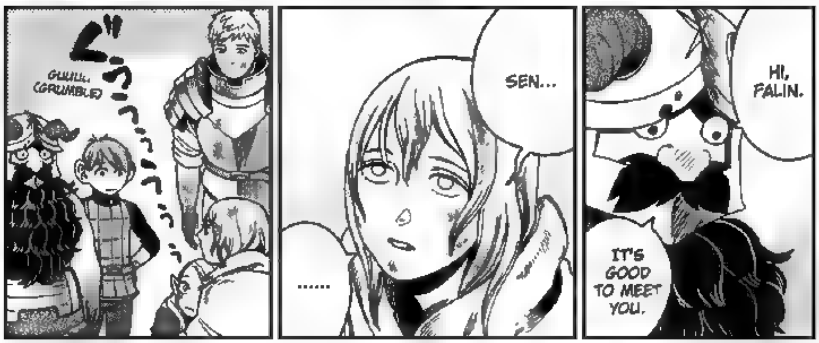

KOFF!
KOFF!
HA
GK!
STAY CALM AND COUGH IT OUT.
HER AIRWAY'S FULL OF BLOOD.
KOFF!
KOFF!
YOU'RE ALL RIGHT NOW!
!?
...!!
FALIN!
GOBOBO (BRBLE)
??
FALIN.
HAAAH...
HAAAH...
KOFF!
KAFF!
WAH...
H/BICHA (SPLAT)

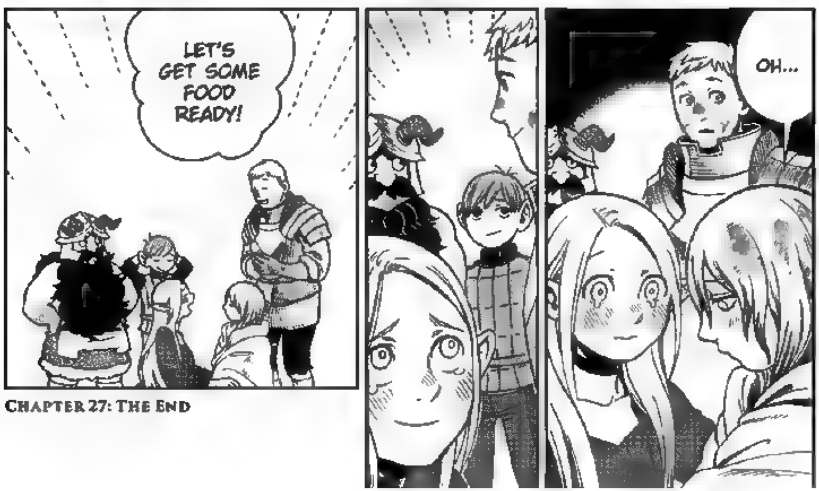

B...
BROTH...


COLD...
I'M SO GLAD...
HE?!
BOO (DAZE)
CLOTHES! CLOTHES!
THE ARMOR! RIGHT!
AH! O-OF COURSE! I'M SORRY!
.....
THAT'S GOOD, THEN.
NOTHING HURTS?
GURU (WRAP)
GURU
ARE YOU OKAY?
FALIN.


HOW'S FALIN ...!?
SHE'S BACK. SHE STILL SEEMS A LITTLE CONFUSED, BUT...
MAR-CILLE. MAR-CILLE!
UUNH...
WAGH!
MAR... CI...
WAAAAAH!
FALIIIIIN!
OH...!
OH, THANK GOOD-NESS!




## Chapter 27: The End




AHHHH!
SO VERY, VERY GLAD.
M... MAR-CILLE.
REALLY.
OH, I'M SO GLAD.
THAT TICKLES!
BASHA (SPLASH)
I HAVE TO MAKE SURE YOUR SKIN REGENERATED PROPERLY.
I CAN WASH MYSELF.


AH!?
MM-HMM.
MM-HMM.
CHAPLIN (SPLISH)
OH, IS THAT ALL?
THERE'S A MARK HERE!!
TH-THAT'S FROM WHEN I WAS LITTLE.
I FELL AND BANGED IT ON THE STAIRS.
I'M JUST OUT OF MANA.
IF I EAT AND REST FOR A WHILE, I'LL BE FINE...
YOU LOOK PALE, THOUGH, MARCILLE.


JIWA
(WARM)
じゃ
THAT STARTLED ME.
OH NO, NO.
YOU CAN'T HAVE ENOUGH TO SHARE.
I THOUGHT I'D SHARE SOME OF MY MANA WITH YOU...
!?
BASHA (SPLASH)
WAGH!!
WHAT WAS THAT!?
.....
BUT...
NO, I FEEL REALLY GOOD SOMEHOW.
IT'S AS IF STRENGTH IS FILLING ME.
.....
.. IN A WAY, YOU'RE STILL GETTING WELL..
DON'T USE MANA UNTIL YOU'RE USED TO YOUR BODY AGAIN.


I DON'T REMEMBER IT VERY WELL.
WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED?
...I DIED, DIDN'T I.
YOU'RE ALL COVERED IN CUTS AND BRUISES.
AND THE RED DRAGON, IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...
THAT'S NOT...
AND...
IF I MADE YOU PUSH YOURSELVES TOO HARD, THEN...
ARE NAMARI AND SHURO OKAY?


IT FELT LIKE SOMETHING BAD.
...WHAT WAS THAT MAGIC CIRCLE?
MARCILLE, IF I MADE YOU...
...USE SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
BASHA (SPLASH)
IT'S FINE!!


I MEAN, YES, THINGS WERE HARD GETTING HERE.
IT GOT ROUGH SOME-TIMES.
BUT NOW WE CAN LOOK BACK ON IT AND LAUGH.
I MEAN, IT ALL PAID OFF, YOU KNOW!?
SO DON'T WORRY LIKE THAT.
NONE OF US HAS ANY REGRETS.
AND WE'LL ERASE THAT MAGIC CIRCLE. IT'LL BE FINE.
BOSO CHUTTERO
NOW THE ONLY ISSUE IS HOW TO GET HOME...
OH! WHAT WILL WE DO FOR YOUR CLOTHES!?
AH!
I HAVE TO WASH AND DRY MINE TOO.
I SWEAR. IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THAT FROG...
IT STUCK TO HER CLOTHES
FROG?


THEY SAY THE PLACE WAS MADE FROM A MIX OF DWARF AND ELF TECHNOLOGY.
THEY PROBABLY LIVED BETTER THAN WE DO NOW.
KAPOOOM (SQUISH)
...ARE IN A HUMAN TOWN FROM A THOUSAND YEARS AGO.
BORI (SCRITCH)
BORI
...IT'S WEIRD TO THINK THAT THESE BATHS...
IF I DRANK NOW, I'D BE UNDER THE TABLE RIGHT AWAY.
WHO COULD GET DRUNK ON THIS STUFF? IT'S LIKE WATER.
ALTHOUGH IF IT CURSES US, WE'RE DONE.
HERE. CELEBRATE A LITTLE.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
WE CAN'T USE A RETURN SPELL OR THE ORCS' PASSAGE. WE'LL HAVE TO GET BACK INTO THE CASTLE FROM THE HIGH STREET.
WE GO BACK UP TOP.
NEVER MIND THAT. WHAT NEXT?


BUT NO TOKEN.
BANK TOKEN
IT'LL TAKE A MONTH TO GET THAT REISSUED.
THE BANK KEEPS ONE PIECE, YOU CARRY ANOTHER...
HAS A PICTURE BASED ON YOUR FINGERPRINT
...AND THE THIRD IS OFTEN LEFT WITH SOMEONE ABOVE GROUND.
THAT'S TRUE.
WE MAY HAVE SAVED YOUR SISTER, BUT WE'RE STILL FLAT BROKE.
I DO HAVE SOME SAVINGS IN THE BANK.
UNDAMAGED, BIGGER PIECES OF ANY BIT SELL FOR MORE.
LIVER
EYE
FANG
CLAW
HUMAN
WE COULDN'T CARRY ENOUGH TO TURN A GOOD PROFIT.
"THERE'S NO DRECK IN A DRAGON."
TAKE SOMETHING BACK AND SELL IT.
NO MATTER WHAT YOU SELL, YOU'LL HAVE MONEY TO SPARE.
IT WOULD BE HARD TO DIG OUT A FANG OR CLAW WITH THAT KNIFE.
WHAT ABOUT THE SKIN?
HMM...
AMBER-GRIS, HUH?
THAT STUFF STINKS.
THE PRACTICAL OPTIONS ARE SALIVA AND BLOOD.
IT WOULD BE GREAT IF THE SALIVARY GLANDS HAD STONES IN THEM, BUT...
GARI
GARI (SCRATCH)


STILL, THAT MARCILLE...
LAIOS, DID YOU KNOW...
...THAT SHE USED BLACK MAGIC?
I DIDN'T KNOW THE SPECIFICS, BUT SHE DID SAY...
...SHE WANTED TO SEE THE DUNGEON TO STUDY IT.
I THOUGHT IT WAS WEIRD.
AN ELF WITH A PRETTY COMFORTABLE LIFE GOING INTO THE DUNGEON. .
SHE'D BETTER NOT BE ONE OF THOSE DARK ELVES.
I DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE.
W-WELL, IF IT WERE HARMLESS, THEY WOULDN'T BAN IT, RIGHT?
WANT TO WEAR THIS?
WHO'S A DARK ELF?
WAAAUGH!


I'M RESEARCHING WAYS THAT FORBIDDEN MAGIC CAN BE USEFUL TO PEOPLE.
I HAVE NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF.
HARM-LESS? EVEN HEALING MAGIC CAN BE USED IN TORTURE.
JUST LIKE A KNIFE, IT'S ALL IN HOW YOU USE IT.
BUT IT'S IN ALL OUR BEST INTER-ESTS...
...IF YOU FORGET ABOUT THAT RES-URRECTION METHOD, THANKS.
SEE, THAT SOUNDS LIKE SHAME RIGHT THERE!!
WHOA...
HM?
BY THE WAY...
AND WHAT'S A DARK ELF ANYWAY!?
WELL, NEVER MIND.
IT'S ALL OVER AND DONE WITH.


SEE? HE'S GOING TO COOK.
...MR. WARRIOR PASSED BY WITH A POT AND FIRE-WOOD.
JUST NOW...
...WHERE'S SENSHI?
CARVING UP THE DRAGON, I BET.
COOK...
...RIGHT BY THE DRAGON?
SAA (PALE)


OH CRAP, OH CRAP, OH CRAP!!
WHAT ON EARTH...?
WE OPENED THE DRAGON'S FUEL SAC.
IF HE STARTS A FIRE OVER THERE NOW...
SENSHI !!
SEN-SHI, STOP !!
KAN CLACK
KAN


DOROOOO
OKABOOOMO
GHK!

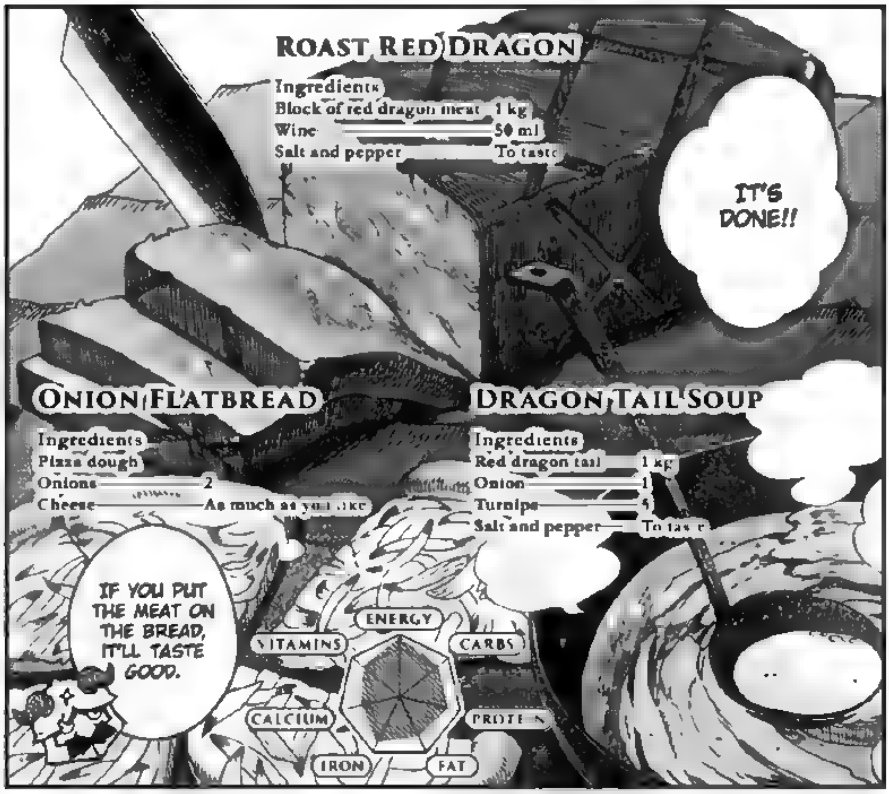

THIS IS...
...A DE-FENSE SPELL?
WE...
WE'RE ALIVE...

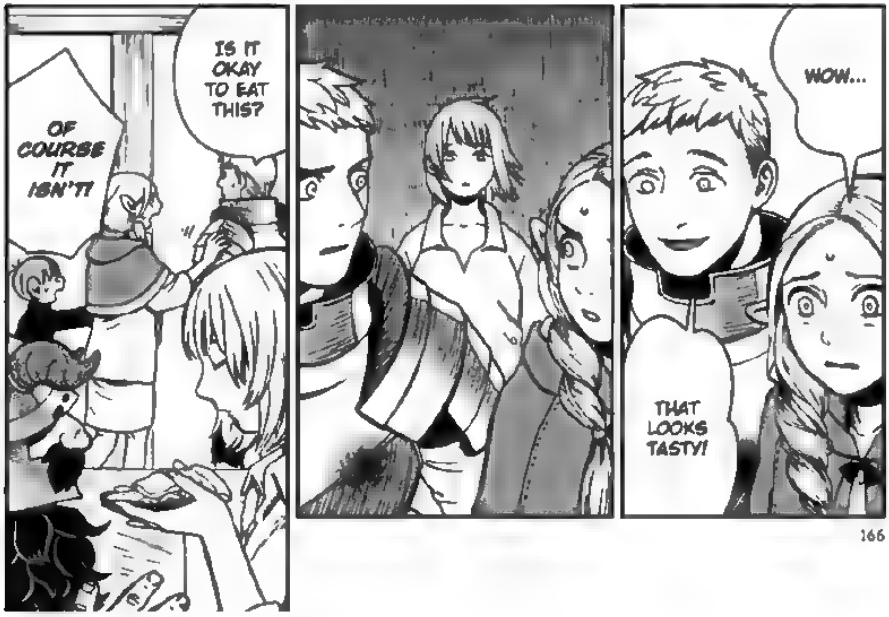

YOU DID THAT?
FALIN...
I DON'T KNOW.
I THOUGHT, "I HAVE TO PROTECT THEM," AND THEN...
THAT FAST?
I GUESS SO.
PETA (PAT)
PETA
WITH NO CHANT?
A-ANYWAY, YOU'VE JUST REVIVED.
WISH WE'D HAD THAT WHEN WE FOUGHT THE DRAGON.
DON'T USE ANY MORE MANA!
WOW.
DOKI (BADUMP)
DOKI
WHAT WAS THAT? HYSTERICAL STRENGTH?


THAT STARTLED ME.
I TOLD YOU, DRAGONS BREATHE FIRE USING FUEL THEY MAKE.
THAT FUEL IGNITED.
THE FIRE'S NOT GOING OUT.
ゴォォ
GOOO (FWOOSH)
THE OIL IN ITS BODY IS BURNING.
IT'LL DIE DOWN EVENTUALLY...
...BUT UNTIL IT DOES, WE CAN'T TAKE MEAT FROM THE INSIDE.
HMM. THAT'S NO GOOD.
WHY DON'T WE COOK WITH THIS?

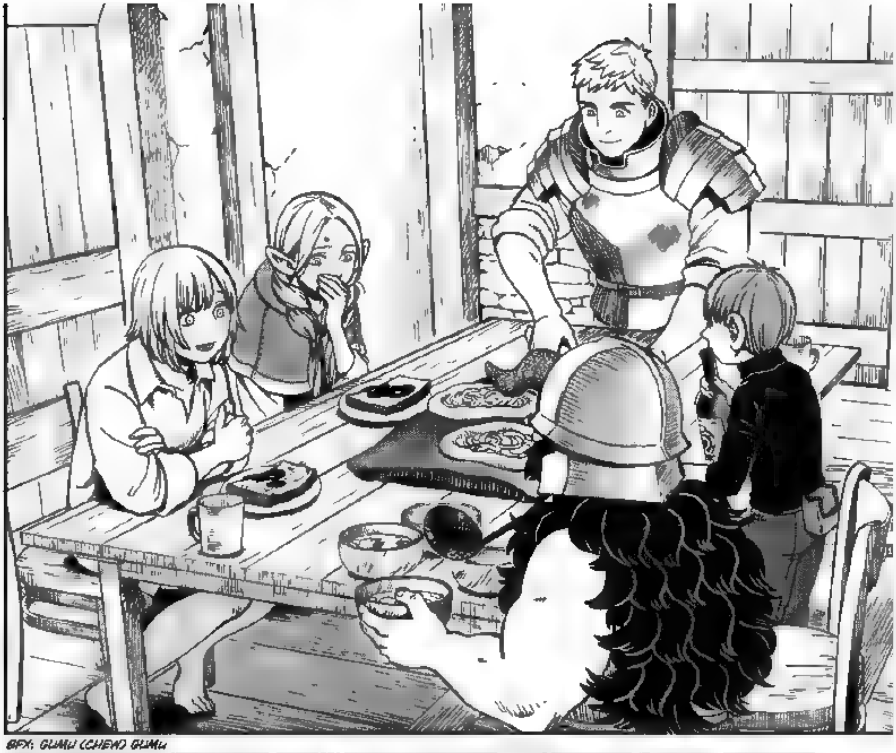

STRETCH OUT AND SHAPE.
WHILE IT DOES, GO TAKE A BATH.
LET REST.
GU (KNEAD)
GU
MIX WHEAT, YEAST, SALT, AND WATER. KNEAD WELL.
...PUT IT IN THE DRAG-ON.
DUST DRAGON SKIN WITH FLOUR, AND...
PAN (PAT)
ADD TOP-PINGS.
BARA
BARA (SCATTER)
...AND MAKE SOUP.
SKIN IT...
CUT OFF THE TIP OF THE TAIL.
AAAAH! WHAT A WASTE!


MM-HM. MM-HM.
THE FIRE'S DIED DOWN A BIT.
FURTHER INSIDE MIGHT BE BETTER.
... MARI-NATE IT.
ONCE YOU SEAR THE SURFACE ON HOT SCALES ...
JYUAAA (SIZZZT)
GYUMU (PUSH)
ギュム
GYUMU


ROAST RED DRAGON
Ingredients
Block of red dragon meat 1 kg
Wine 50 ml
Salt and pepper To taste
IT'S DONE!!
ONION FLATBREAD
Ingredients
Pizza dough
Onions 2
Cheese As much as you like
IF YOU PUT THE MEAT ON THE BREAD, IT'LL TASTE GOOD.
DRAGON TAIL SOUP
Ingredients
Red dragon tail 1 kg
Onion 1
Turnips 4
Salt and pepper To taste
ENERGY
CARBS
PROTEIN
FAT
IRON
CALCIUM
VITAMINS


IS IT OKAY TO EAT THIS?
OF COURSE IT ISN'T!
WOW...
THAT LOOKS TASTY!


AAAAH...
MOGU
MOGU CHEWD
GUMU GUMU GUMU
GOKURI GULP
IT'S DELICIOUS!
IT FEELS LIKE I HAVEN'T EATEN IN A LONG TIME.
I BET IT DOES.
EAT UP. TAKE IT ALL BACK.
.....
I GUESS IT'S OKAY.
SHE'S HERE NOW, AND SHE'S JUST FINE.



SFX: GUMU (CHEW) GUMU



















THE AROMA.
THE RICH FLAVOR.
THE RED COLOR.
THE FIRM TEX-TURE.
THEY'RE ALL ONE OF A KIND.
WHAT ARE YOU PEOPLE SAYING?
AND ANYWAY, WHY DESCRIBE THE FLAVOR OF DRAGON USING SOME OTHER CREATURE!?
THIS...
...TASTES LIKE DRAGON.
ZUBA GRLLNT?
WE DIDN'T HAVE THE RESOURCES TO BUY FOOD, SO WE'VE BEEN EATING MONSTERS THE WHOLE TRIP.
WAGGH!
HUH...
UM...
UH, FALIN...
YOU MAY HAVE GUESSED, BUT...


WHAT MONSTERS HAVE YOU EATEN?
H-H-HOW DID YOU EAT THEM!?
WOW!
OH, WOW! WOW! WOW!!
WASTED WORRY, HUH?
NO, THIS IS WHAT I DIDN'T WANT!
WHAT ABOUT FISHMEN?
WE DIDN'T EAT THOSE.
WE HARVESTED VEGETABLES FROM GOLEMS TOO.
OOOH!
FIRST WAS GIANT SCORPION AND SLIME.
WHOA ...
WOULDN'T IT BE FASTER TO SHOW HER THE REAL THING?
WE ATE LIVING ARMOR, THOUGH.
WHAT PART!?
HUH!?
...OF SHELLED MOLLUSKS, AND...
UM...
UH...
THEY'RE ACTUALLY COLONIES ...


HUH?
WHAT?
.....?
SHH.
GOTO OTUNO
NYU (YNOOF)
I'M SOWWY.
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY ANYTHING!?
WHY!?
SHLI (SHWIP)
OH.
IT BREATHES AIR!?
HOW CUTE!


BYOOON (BOING)
ACK!
IT WENT BACK IN.
TREASURE INSECTICIDE
AH!
COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU WERE ODDLY SHARP.
YOU SHOULD'VE HAD NAMARI APPRAISE IT FOR YOU.
TENTA-CLESS
SORRY.
I WAS ONLY GOING TO USE IT UNTIL I FOUND ANOTHER WEAPON, BUT...
...THE WAY IT REACTED TO MONSTERS WAS HANDY, SO...
IT MOVES ON ITS OWN.
GIVE ME A BREAK...
I WAS CARELESS.
I WON'T DO IT AGAIN.
THAT'S NOT A CALL TO MAKE ON YOUR OWN, THOUGH.
LOSE THE GROUP'S TRUST, AND YOU'VE LOST EVERYTHING.
UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES...
...I THINK YOU DID HAVE TO USE IT.


AND? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW?
I'D LIKE TO USE THIS UNTIL I HAVE ANOTHER WEAPON.
BUT...
...I COULD DROWN IT.
I CAN'T GET IT OUT WITHOUT TAKING THE SWORD APART, SO IT'LL PROBABLY ROT IN THERE.
LET'S NOT, OKAY?
WE'LL JUST KEEP AN EYE ON IT.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID MONSTERS WERE DANGEROUS.
AND I HADN'T FORGOTTEN THAT, BUT I THOUGHT ...
...IT WAS HARMLESS ON ITS OWN.
THAT'S WHEN I THOUGHT I COULD USE IT.
I GUESS IT REALLY IS NO GOOD, THOUGH.
MONSTERS CAN'T BE USED WHILE THEY'RE ALIVE.
WHAT DO THEY TASTE LIKE?
WANT TO EAT IT?
JII (STARE)
YES! YES, I DO!


DOORS ALL OVER, BUT ONLY TWO GO OUTSIDE. HUH?
NO RISK OF SNEAK ATTACKS, THEN.
THIS HOUSE LOOKS PRETTY COMFORT-ABLE.
I'D LOVE TO KNOW WHY IT HAS SEVEN BATHROOMS, BUT YEAH.
HM. MM-HM.
YOU'LL STILL BE IN YOUR SLEEPING BAG, Y'KNOW.
HOO-RAY!
IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE I SLEPT IN A REAL BED.
OKAY.
LET'S SLEEP HERE.


I'M SORRY TO INTRUDE LIKE THIS.
WE'LL JUST REST A BIT, AND THEN WE'LL GO.
I SEE.
THAT'S KIND OF HER.
WHAT IS IT?
A RESIDENT. SHE SAYS WE CAN STAY.


WE'RE SHORT ON SLEEPING BAGS. WE'LL NEED TO BUNK TOGETHER ON THE WAY HOME.
WE HAVEN'T SLEPT IN THE SAME BED SINCE WE WERE AT SCHOOL.
BAFU (FWUMP)
OH, GET OVER YOURSELF!
YOU'RE STILL JUST A LITTLE KID TO ME.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT...
I WONDER IF I'LL FIT.
I'M A LOT BIGGER THAN I WAS THEN.
IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
SAME HERE.
I'LL GO TALK TO MY BROTHER BEFORE I SLEEP.


BROTH-
ER.
GARI (SCRATCH)
GARI
GOSHI (RUB)
GOSHI
SUU (SIP)
FALIN.
GUSHA (MUSS)
THAT WOUND... YOU WERE RECKLESS.
WHY DID YOU...?
I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT I DID...
DON'T YOU EVER DO THAT AGAIN.
HUH!?
YOU COULD EVEN SAY YOUR RECK-LESSNESS CAUSED THIS.
JUST SO YOU KNOW, YOU WERE RECK-LESS FIRST.


I WON'T DO IT AGAIN.
GYUU (SQUEEZE)


GOOD NIGHT, BIG BROTHER LAIOS.
GOOD NIGHT, FALIN.
MESSING UP A MAGICIAN'S HAIR, HONESTLY...



# Translation Notes

**Page 155**
The Japanese term for "ambergris" literally translates to "dragon drool incense." Ambergris is actually secreted by sperm whales, but in antiquity, it was apparently believed to come from dragons. Although aged ambergris smells good and was commonly used as a perfume fixative, fresh ambergris does smell like sewage.

**Page 158**
In Japanese, Falin hesitantly says "Senshi" with the characters for "warrior," which she isn't sure is correct. She may have confused his name for his profession.

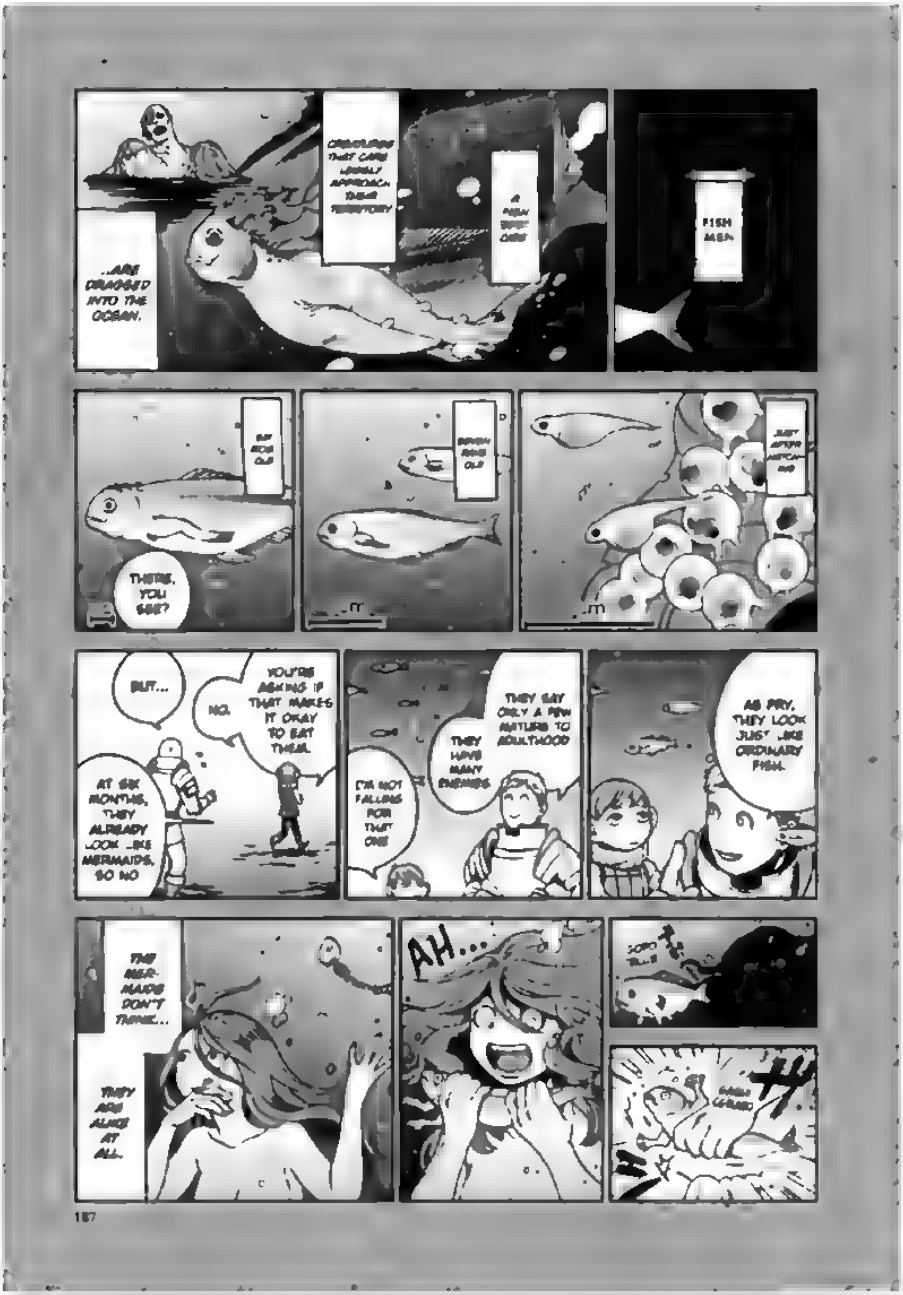


*To be continued...*


STEP RIGHT UP, ADVENTURERS!
PLAGUED BY IRRITATING TENTACLES?
IF WE PLAY THIS RIGHT, WE COULD BE RICH.
SO GIANT FROG SKIN NEUTRALIZES TENTACLES. THAT'S A MAJOR DISCOVERY.
GIANT FROGS
MISC. MONSTER TALES
4
IF YOU'RE GOING INTO THE DEPTHS, YOU NEED THIS.
COME ON, GET OUT YOUR PURSES.
WITH THIS SKIN, YOU'LL FEAR NO TENTACLE
IT WORKS ON STRING, VINE, FLOWER, HAND-SHAPED, AND ALL OTHER TENTACLE TYPES!
WHAT YOU NEED IS GIANT FROG SKIN.
THESE FROGS LIVE DEEP IN THE DUNGEON WHERE THE TENTACLES ARE THICK.
MEANING...?
...THAT KEEPS THEM SAFE AROUND TENTACLES.
THEY SAY IT MAY BE GIANT FROGS' SLIME.
HMM...
AH HA!
NICE! I LIKE IT.
SAFER NOT TO TRY, THEN.
ONCE THEY DRY OUT, THEY DON'T WORK.
IS THERE A HEALER...
...IN THE AUDIENCE?
WATCH AND BE AMAZED.
WITH THIS SKIN ON, EVEN THIS IS NOTH—
MIMIC (STUFFED)
みっちり


THEY'RE WAITING WITH THEIR MOUTHS OPEN FOR FOOD TO FALL DOWN, AREN'T THEY?
DON'T THEY GET BORED?
SAWA (RUSTLE)
サワ
サワ
SAWA
TENTACLES
TREASURE CHESTS, HANDLES, RAILINGS, NEXT TO SWITCHES ...
BY THE WALLS OF OPEN-LOOKING ROOMS.
THEY GROW IN PLACES WHERE THEY'LL TEMPT PEOPLE.
NO, THEY'RE DEFINITELY INTELLIGENT
I DON'T KNOW.
I HEAR THEIR STAPLE FOOD IS AIRBORNE SPIRITS.
THEY DON'T HAVE BRAINS.
WHEN A PUZZLED DOCTOR ASKED WHERE THEY'D BEEN STUNG...
ODDLY, MOST OF THEM WERE WOMEN.
A HOSPITAL KEPT GETTING PATIENTS WITH TENTACLE-STUNG HANDS.
I HEARD THIS ONE TOO.
THAT'S REAL CLEVER.
BWAH HAH!
AH HA!
YES, THAT WOULD BE TEMPTING.
THEY LIKED IT.
HEY, THAT WASN'T MY FAULT.
DAMN YOU, TENTACLES.
TEMPTED BY THE MOOD, CHILCHUCK ACCIDENTALLY CHOSE THE WRONG JOKE.
A SURE-FIRE HIT AT THE TAVERN
GRILLED CHILCHUCK
...IT TURNED OUT THE TENTACLE WAS GROWING IN THE CROTCH OF A STATUE OF A STRAPPING WARRIOR.


THEY BEWITCH PEOPLE WITH THEIR BEAUTIFUL SONGS...
A DEMI-HUMAN SPECIES.
MERMAIDS
...AND DRAG THEM INTO THE OCEAN.
DUE TO THEIR SHARP HEARING, THEY NOTICE MERMAID SONGS BEFORE OTHER RACES DO.
YOU DON'T SAY...
EVEN NOW, AS A MERMAID PRECAUTION...
...SOME COUNTRIES REQUIRE SHIPS TO HAVE A HALF-FOOT ON BOARD BY LAW.
LIKE TYING THEM WITH CORD.
I MEAN, I THINK THEY TAKE STEPS TO ENSURE THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN, BUT .
THEY DIE...
WHAT HAPPENS TO THE HALF-FOOT?
IS THAT WHY YOU TOOK ME ALONG THAT TIME!?
YOU JERK!
DWARF
USE-BIRDS
LET'S GO LOOK
AW MAN
I DON'T WANNA...
...HM?


...ARE DRAGGED INTO THE OCEAN.
CROCODILES THAT CARE HEAVILY APPROACH THEIR TERRITORY
A FISH WITH CARE
FISH MEN
THERE, YOU SEE?
BUT... NO. YOU'RE ASKING IF THAT MAKES IT OKAY TO EAT THEM.
AT SIX MONTHS, THEY ALREADY LOOK LIKE MERMAIDS, SO NO
I'M NOT FALLING FOR THAT ONE
THEY HAVE MANY ENEMIES
THEY SAY ONLY A FEW MATURE TO ADULTHOOD
AS FRY, THEY LOOK JUST LIKE ORDINARY FISH.
THE MER-MAIDS DON'T THINK...
THEY ARE ALIVE AT ALL.
AH...


WHY DO THEY GET BIGGER?
THE AIR CONCENTRATION OF MANA, MAYBE?
WATER SPIRIT COLONIES THAT ARE LARGE ENOUGH TO SEE ARE CALLED UNDINES.
UNDINES
MANA AND SPIRITS ARE EVERYWHERE...
AND HERE
LIKE HERE.
HERE TOO
HERE.
...AND EVEN IF YOU'RE JUST LIVING NORMALLY, THEY GET INSIDE YOU.
TO ABSORB THEM IN A SHORT TIME...
YOU NEED TO CONSUME THINGS THAT ARE RICH IN MANA...
.BUT THE AMOUNT OF MANA THAT CREATURES CAN STORE IS LIMITED.
1. ELF
2. GNOME
3. TA
PARENTHETICALLY, ELVES HAVE THE HIGHEST LIMIT OF ALL HUMAN RACES.
AT THE OTHER END, THERE'S ...
WHAT HAPPENS TO MANA THAT'S OVER THE LIMIT?
IT'S ELIMINATED.
JUST LIKE WATER.
DUE TO THEIR INCREDIBLY HIGH LIMIT, MANDRAKES ARE VERY CONVENIENT.
AS MUCH MANA AS 1,000 LEMONS!
OOGH...
MEANWHILE, NANARI...
...WENT STRAIGHT TO MY GUT...
THE TELEPORTATION SICKNESS...
SO WHAT...
ARE THOSE RICH IN MANA?
...IF THEY ARE!?
I'M SO GASSY
BUH? GASSY?


...AND THEY SOMETIMES HUNT DRAGONS AS A PACK.
THEY DON'T FEAR CREATURES THAT ARE BIGGER THAN THEY ARE...
THEY HAVE FIERCE, CUNNING NATURES
VELVETY COATED AND COOPERATIVE, THEY TRAVEL IN PACKS.
WARGS
THEY COULDN'T TAKE THEM WHEN THEY EVACUATED.
POOR THINGS.
YOU SEE THEM WITH ORCS A LOT, DON'T YOU?
MAYBE THE DEAD ONES BELONGED TO THE VILLAGE.
DON'T BRING THAT TO THE DINNER TABLE!
I'M SAD I ONLY GOT TO SEE THEIR CORPSES.
THEY'RE ONE OF MY FAVORITE MONSTER SPECIES
ABOUT THAT.
LISTEN TO ME!
I HEARD THEY NEVER WARM UP TO HUMANS.
THEY STAYED AND FOUGHT THE DRAGON OF THEIR OWN FREE WILL.
DON'T PUT IT ON THE TABLE!
GOTO (TUNA)
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
ORCS AND WARGS AREN'T MASTERS AND SERVANTS. THEY COEXIST.
ASK HIM IF HE THINKS A GUY WHO CAN'T GET ALONG WITH PEOPLE COULD GET ALONG WITH MONSTERS.
JUST TO SEE
...I MIGHT BE ABLE TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH A WARG!
IN OTHER WORDS, IF I COULD MIMIC THAT ODOR WITH COLOGNE OR SOMETHING.
I WAS THINKING. THE ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ME AND AN ORC ARE OUR NUMBER OF FINGERS AND TOES AND OUR BODY ODORS.


DRAG-ONS!!
THEY STAND ABOVE ALL OTHER CREA-TURES.
THOSE WHO DEFEAT A DRAGON WIN FAME AND IMMENSE WEALTH.
... PROVIDED THEY MANAGE TO TAKE IT BACK WITH THEM.
RED DRAGONS
IT'S A WELL-KNOWN FACT THAT WHEN HUNTING DRAGONS, MORE OF YOUR EQUIPMENT IS TRANSPORTATION GEAR THAN WEAPONS.
IN ORDER TO TRANSPORT THE BODY WITHOUT DAMAGING IT, YOU NEED LOTS OF TOOLS.
THEN THERE'S THE PEOPLE TO CARRY THEM...
THE FOOD TO KEEP THEM FED...
THE CAPITAL TO GET ALL OF THOSE THINGS...
.....
EVEN IF YOU WORK HARD AND MAKE A FORTUNE ON THE DRAGON...
...IN LIGHT OF THE EXPENSE AND THE DAMAGE YOU TAKE, IT'S NOT A GREAT DEAL.
THAT'S THE DILEMMA OF DRAGON-HUNTING.
IN TERMS OF EASE OF PROCESSING AND VALUE FOR WEIGHT...
...SOME PEOPLE SAY MOST METALS ARE MORE VALUABLE.
STILL, THERE ARE MANY DRAGON LEGENDS AND TALES..
BIG SELLER
DRAGON MANIA
...SPE-CIALTY PROD-UCTS AND TOURIST SPOTS.
WHEN YOU THINK OF THAT ECONOMIC EFFECT...
...IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO STATE A BLANKET VALUE FOR DRAGONS.
.....
.....


WELL, I
UH...
WHERE'S YOUR ENTHUSIASM? DO YOU EVEN LIKE DRAGONS?
EVEN I ALREADY KNEW THAT MUCH.
IS THAT ALL YOU'VE GOT?
HUH?
HUH? THAT'S IT?
...FROM A SINGLE TONGUING SOUND.
I'M AN INDUSTRY WHERE YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT..
...IF YOU CAN'T TELL THE SPECIES, GENDER, AGE, AND HABITAT...
DRAGONS REALLY ARE SPECIAL IN THESE PARTS.
"THESE PARTS"?
DO ONWUD
...I CAN'T STAND MY OWN LACK OF COMMIT-MENT!
I DO LIKE DRAGONS TOO...
...BUT WHEN I SEE REAL DRAGON FANS...
WAIT, WALKING MUSH-ROOMS ARE THAT POPULAR IT?
THEY SAY THE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION IS ON PAR WITH WALKING MUSHROOMS.
THERE ARE MANY RESEARCHERS. LOTS OF THEORIES ARE PUB-LISHED AND REVISED EVERY YEAR.
I SHOULD NOT HAVE ASKED.
...DO LIKE DRA-GONS.
I REALLY ...
HEH...
STILL, WHEN I FIGHT THE REAL THING, MY HEART RACES.
BECAUSE I KNOW THESE FEELINGS ARE GENUINE.
THERE WAS A TIME WHEN JUST SEEING THE WORD "DRAGON" HURT.

# 4

# DELICIOUS IN DUNGEON

## RYOKO KUI

**Translation: Taylor Engel** **Lettering: Abigail Blackman**

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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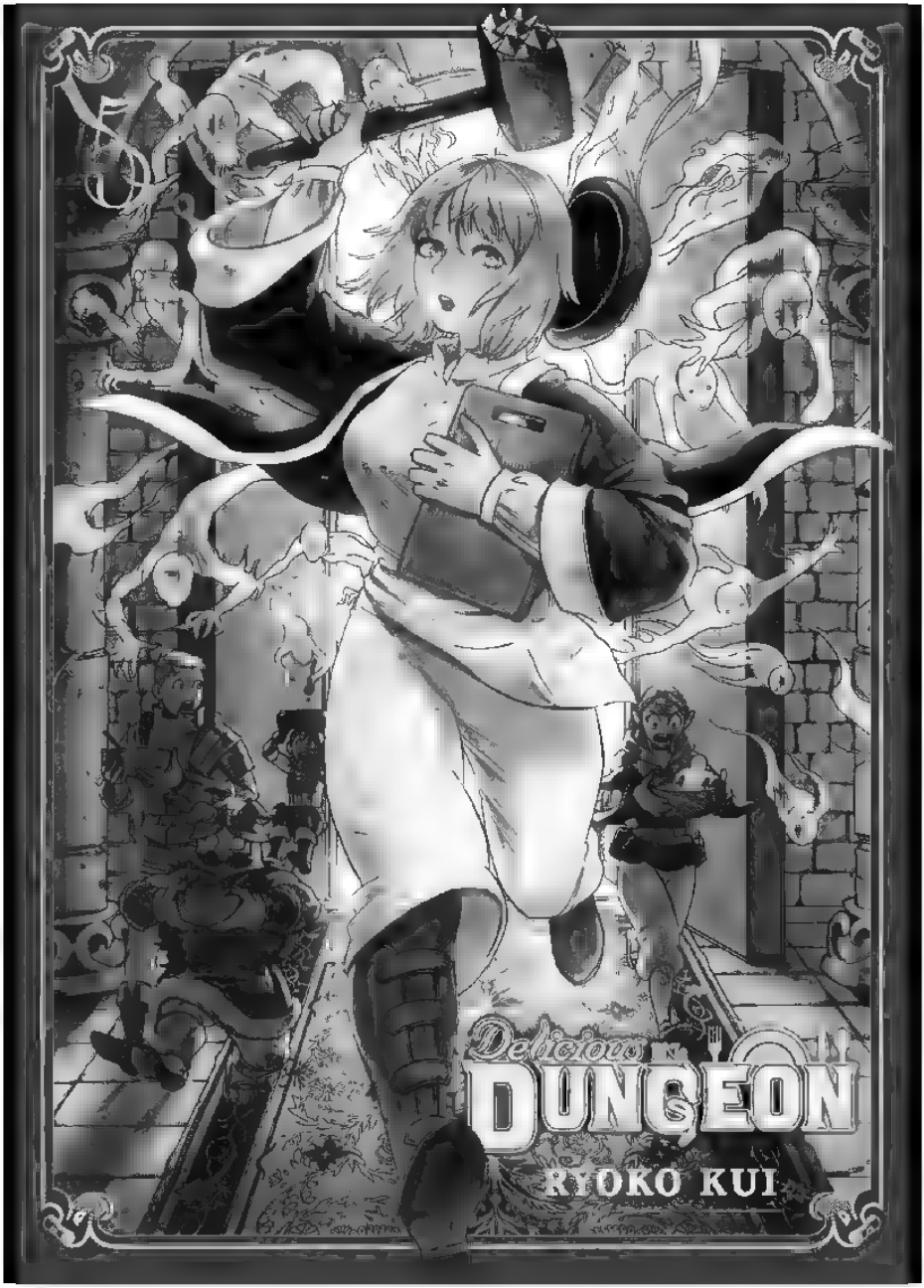
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5
Delicious
DUNGEON
KUI


Delicious in
DUNGEON
RYOKO KUI

# Delicious in Dungeon



Ryoko Kui

5

# Delicious in Dungeon

5

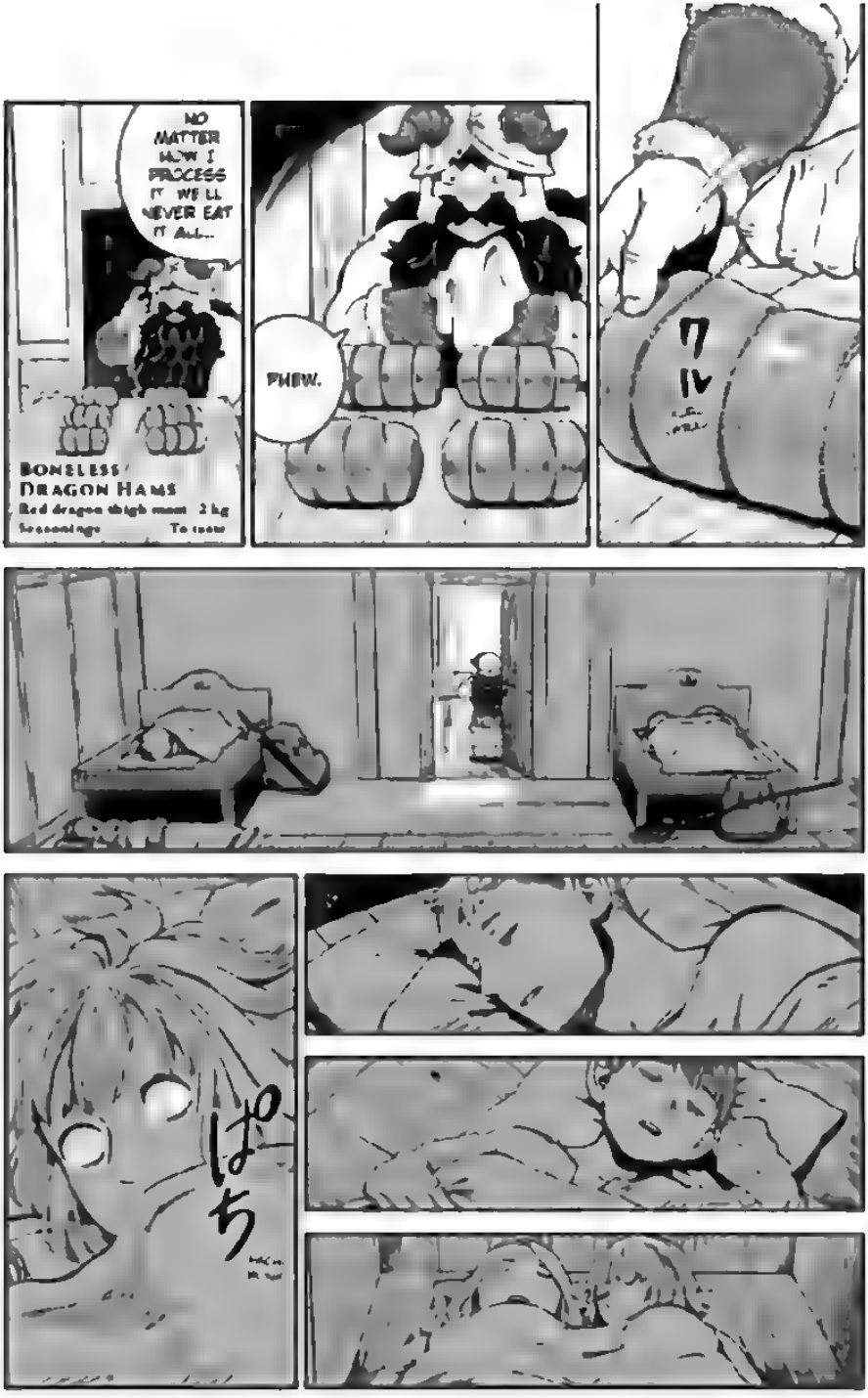
*Contents*

*Chapter 29* **Red Dragon VII** — 005
*Chapter 30* **Good Medicine** — 033
*Chapter 31* **Sea Serpent, Part 1** — 059
*Chapter 32* **Sea Serpent, Part 2** — 085
*Chapter 33* **Dryad** — 113
*Chapter 34* **Cockatrice** — 143
*Chapter 35* **Cleaners** — 175
*Bonus* **Miscellaneous Monster Tales -5-** — 196





# 26. Red Dragon VII


NO MATTER HOW I PROCESS IT WE'LL NEVER EAT IT All...
BONELESS DRAGON HAMS
Red dragon thigh meat 2 kg
PHEW.
ぱち

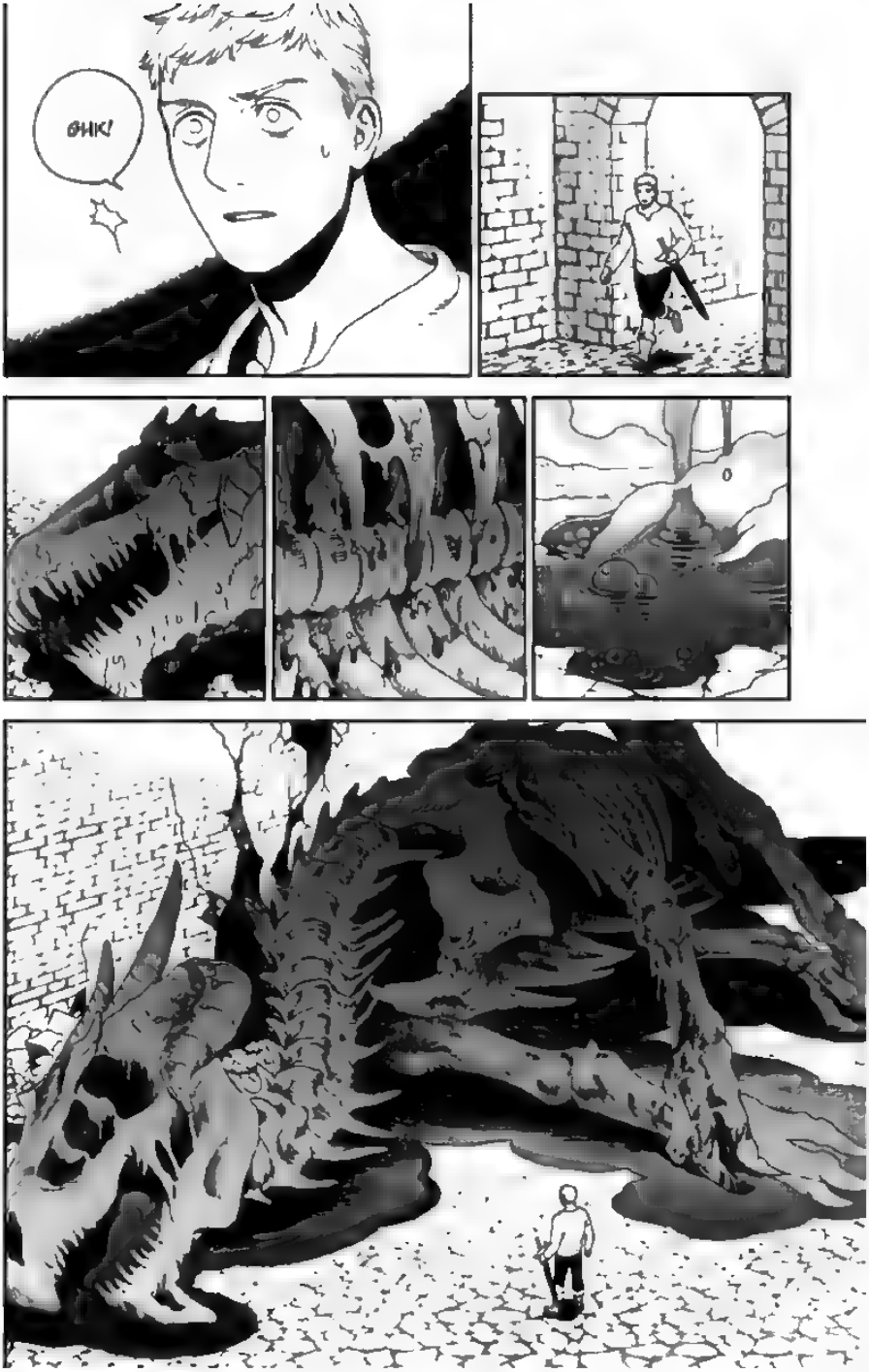



HISO (WHISPER)
HISO
FURA (STAGGER)
FURA
BA (YANK)
GYUU (SQUEEZE)
GUI (TUG)
.....
.....


SO THERE YOU ARE, HM?
WHAT DO YOU CALL THAT FORM?
YOU WERE TASKED WITH SEARCHING FOR HIS MAJESTY.
I DON'T RECALL RELIEVING YOU OF YOUR DUTY.
つぎ


HAAH...
TIE THAT THING UP ALREADY.
THE SWORD WAS PROPPED UP, AND I GUESS IT FELL OVER.
...WHAT WAS THAT?
GATAN (CLATTER)
BIKU (FLINCH)
ZZZZ...
WHEW...
HUH?
MARCILLE, WHERE'S FALIN?
FALIN?


SENSHI, WHERE DID FALIN GO?
?
NOBODY CAME THROUGH HERE.
SHE CAN'T HAVE...
DID SHE LEAVE THROUGH HERE...?
WHAT...? WHAT'S WRONG?
...I'M GOING OUT TO LOOK FOR HER!
GU (GRAB)
BA (DASH)
LAIOS!


GHK!


FALIN!
WHAT'S THIS...?
KATA (RATTLE)
ARE YOU OKAY?
UNH...
GOTO (THNK)
WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED?
"DELGAL"?
WHO'S...?
LORD DELGAL...
HAVE TO SEARCH...
BUTSU (MUTTER)

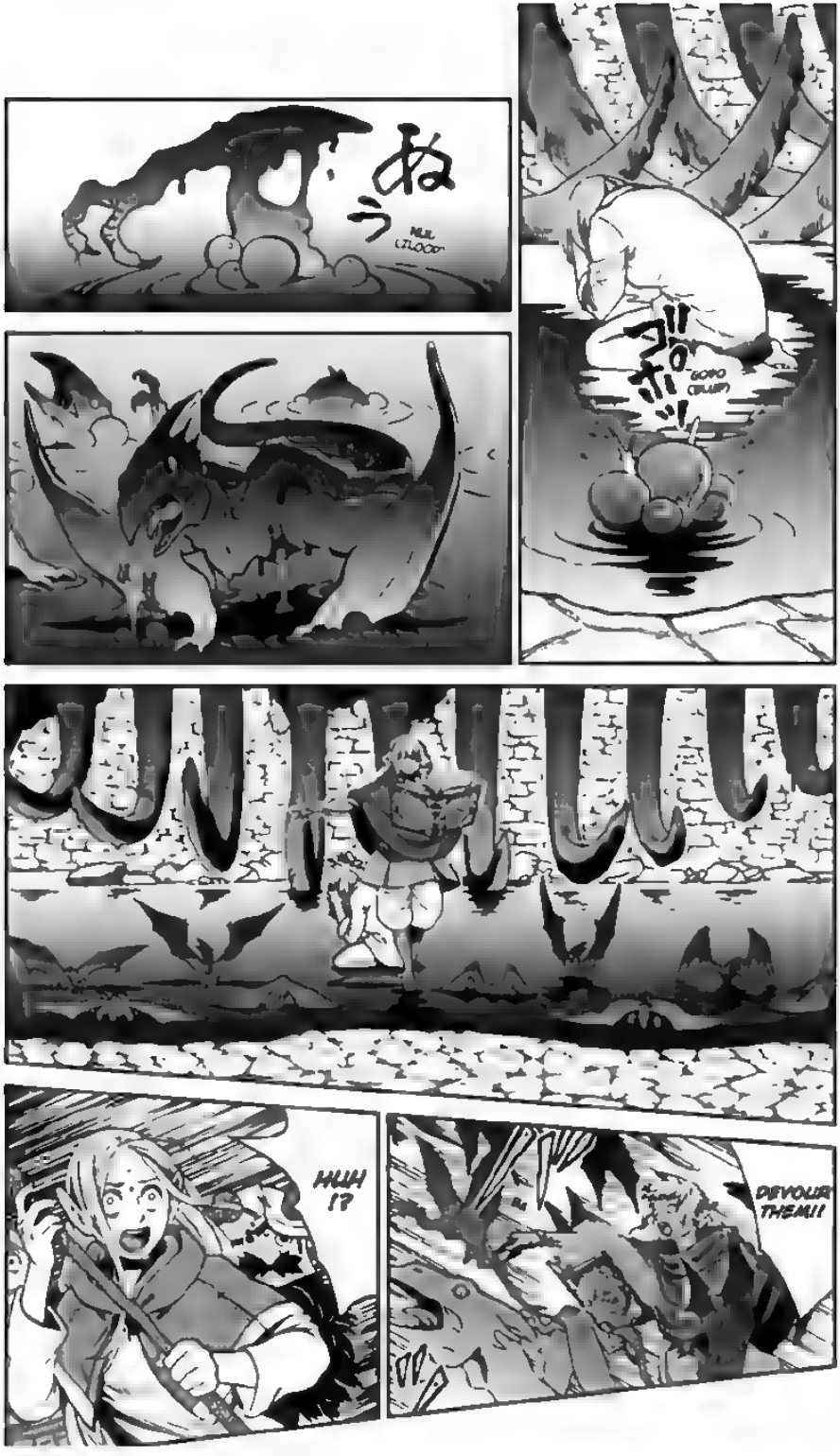

IN THIS LAND...
BIKU (FLINCH)
ビク!!
IN THIS LAND, ALL BUILDINGS, COINS, CITIZENS, LIVESTOCK, BLOOD, AND FLESH...
...DOWN TO EVERY GRAIN OF SAND UNDER YOUR FEET...
EVERYTHING IS THE PERSONAL PROPERTY OF HIS MAJESTY, KING DELGAL.
YOU...
YOU FILTHY THIEF.


WHO ARE YOU?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
SHE REMEMBERS...?
I DON'T.
THE KING...
IN THE PAINTINGS...
I REMEMBER YOU.
YOU WERE PROWLING AROUND IN THE PAINTINGS.
——!!
.....
YOU... THE LORD OF THE DUNGEON...
THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN !!


BASHAN (SPLOOSH)
PAAN (BLAM)
Y-YOU THERE! GET BACK!
A CHILD!?
THE NEXT ONE WILL HIT YOU!
.....
KNOW YOUR PLACE...!


—SHUT UP!!
GUA (CLINGE)
YUSA (SHAKE)
FALIN, CAN YOU STAND?
NNH...
FALIN!
DOSHA (FALLING)
DO (WHUD)
WHAT'S GOING ON?
IS SHE AN ADVEN-TURER?
WHAT STRENGTH!
L-LAIOS!


HMM?
A BOOK!?
I'VE GOT A REALLY BAD FEELING..
PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, LAIOS.
BA (FWAP)
ZOWA (SHIVER)
ANCIENT MAGIC.
HEY SHE'S CASTING SOMETHING.
HMMM !?
THAT CHANT...


ぬう
NUU
UUOOO!
!!
GOGO
GRUM
HUH!?
DEVOUR THEM!!


DOSHA (WHUMP)
BI (SNIK)
AH!
IN THAT CASE...
GU (WIPE)
NO. THOSE WON'T BLOCK THEM.
EXPLO-SIVE SPELLS.
DEFENSE SPELLS...
...I'LL OVERWRITE THE SPELL DIRECTLY!!
MIGHI
MIGHI (KRIK)
GYUU (SQUEEZE)


SUU (SHUF)
BISHI
BISHA (SPLASH)
RELEASE!!
PASHAA (SPLAAASH)


ピク
PIKU
(TWITCH)
RE-
LEASE
!!!
RE-
LEASE!
RE-
LEASE!
UKI!
HEE-HEE!
...I
CAN'T
KEEP UP
WITH IT!!
BUT
...
PA
THIS
ANCIENT
MAGIC...
I
UNDER-
STAND
IT! I CAN
READ
IT!
PA
PA
(POP)
YEEEG
...!
PA
PA
BONELESS
DRAGON HAMS
Red dragon thigh meat—2 kg
Seasonings To taste
BONELESS
DRAGON HAMS
Red dragon thigh meat—2 kg
Seasonings To taste


GUBA (LURCH)
HFF...
Y-YOU MADE TH S DUNGEON ...?
I...
HFF...
...WANT TO TALK TO Y—
HAGK!
HAFF!
GAPAA (GAPE)
HUH!?
BAKUN (SLAM)
WAAAH!!

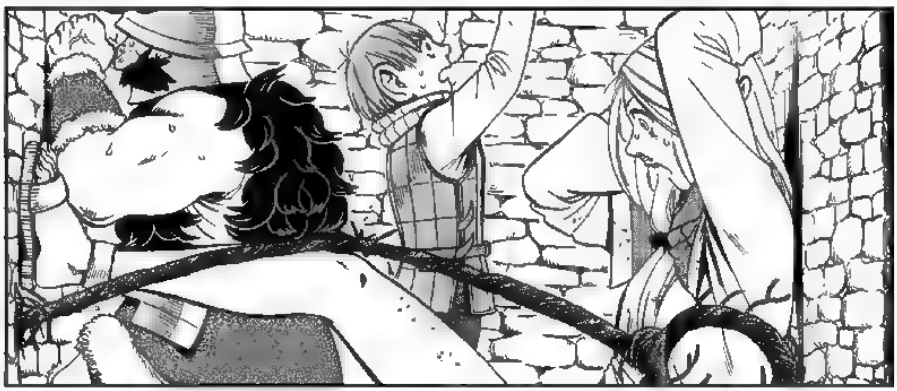

PATAN (SHUT)
HMPH.
SU (SWISH)
SETTLE DOWN.
THE REBELS ARE GONE.
.....
.....
NIKO (SMILE)
HIS MAJESTY WILL RETURN SOON TOO.
WHEN HE DOES, LET'S HAVE A GRAND CELEBRATION.

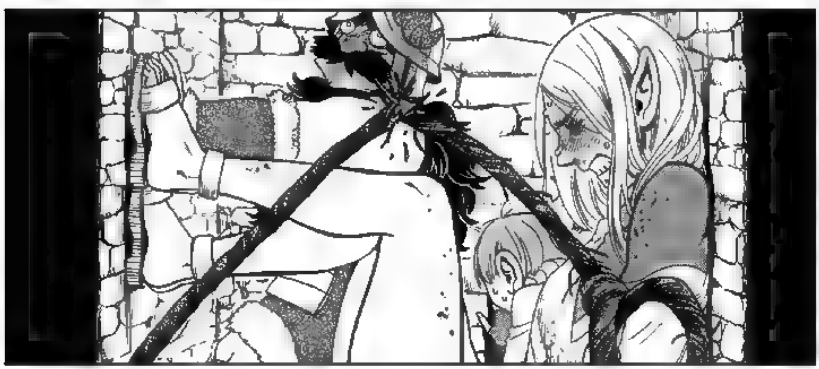

I'LL GIVE YOU A NEW SHAPE.
THAT'S INCON-VENIENT, ISN'T IT?
ビク
BIKU (FLINCH)
HEY.
DRAGON.
ボコ
BOKO (BLORP)
ボコ
BOKO
ボコココー
BOKOKO (BLURBLE)
.....
I WILL...
CARRY OUT YOUR DUTY.


WHAT'S GOING ON?
HANG ON. I'LL MAKE A LIGHT...
GORO CRUMPLED
NH...
OW...
.....
POO
PO GLEAM
ZU CRUMBLE
KO (TAP)
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THE EXIT'S...?
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
WHERE DID WE FALL IN FROM...?


HUH? I THINK THE WALLS ARE CLOSING IN!?
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING! DAMMIT!
WHAT IS THAT!?
WAAH!?
CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING WITH MAGIC!?
WHAT KIND OF MAGIC, EXACTLY!?
EXIT! FIND AN EXIT!!








WE FINALLY FOUND FALIN.
I WAS SO CLOSE TO THE DUNGEON'S MYSTERY.
...AND NOW IT WON'T MEAN A THING.
IT'S NOT THE FIRST TIME, BUT...
...NOBODY WILL FIND US IF WE'RE BURIED IN ROCK.
TO (SHIVER)
WE'RE GOING TO DIE.
HYA (CHILL)
FOR IT TO END THIS WAY IS JUST...
JIWA (TEARY)
GU (CLAMP)
MMPH!!
HUH...?


SUPPON (POP)
MMPH !!?
MARCILLE !?
WE DON'T KNOW WHERE IT GOES.
ANYTHING'S BETTER THAN BEING FLATTENED!!
JUST GO! HURRY!
I-IT'S A CAVE!!
WE CAN GET OUT THAT WAY!
ZUN (THUD)


BOFU (FWUMP)


F-FOR NOW, WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE.
WHERE ARE WE?
...IT'S COLD!
CHIRA- (GLANCE)
.....
.....
UNH...?


...GH!
DOKU- (BEATING)
NO, TRY HARDER.
IF SHE FINDS US AGAIN...
...CAN'T.
I CAN'T BOOVE A VINGER EDDY BORE...




IT'S...
IT'S ALL OVER.


30. Good Medicine

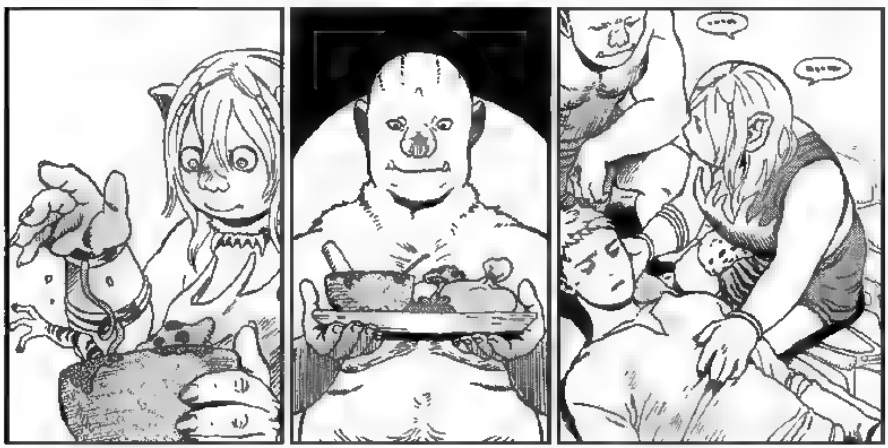

SFX: BOGO (MUTTER) BOGO
FU OFF?
BEP!
Ba wabo
Ra-Ra-R
TH!
SFX: (GRUNT)
AGH, DAMMIT, I'M GOING TO GO CRAZY.
SENSHI, WAKE UP LAIOS.
I'LL GO SEE WHAT IT'S LIKE OUT THERE.
TH-THEY VANISHED

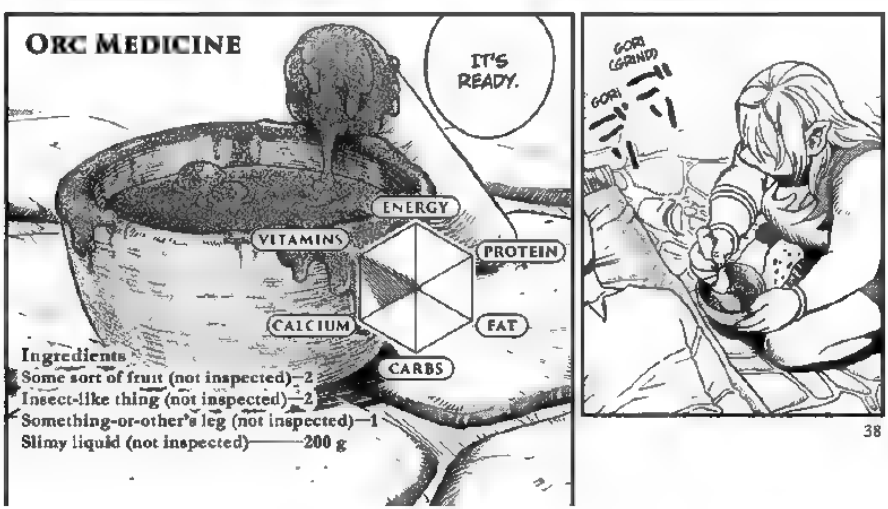

GIH! (CREAK)
ギィ…
UWAAAAH?!?!
EEEEEEEK!!
HOW DID THEY SNEAK IN HERE?
GEH! THERE'S A LONG-EARS TOO.
BATTAN (SCRAMBLE)
ぴったん
(...DOTTAN (SMALL HOP).)
C-CATCH 'IM!


MOLES, CAPTAIN.
QUIET DOWN!
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
HOW DID THEY GET IN?
WHAT WERE THE GUARDS DOING?
THE HOLE CLOSED UP.
...A LONG-EARS!
A LONG-LEGS, AND...
A LITTLE MAN.
GWEH
A DEPTHS-DWELLER.
GIVE THE LITTLE MAN TO THE DOGS.
GRRR...
THEY'RE STARVED FOR ENTERTAIN-MENT.
KUN ? > KUN > (SNIFF)
INTER-ESTING.
I'VE NEVER KILLED A LONG-EARS BEFORE.
I'LL DO IT.


HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT NAME?
I REQUEST LENIENCE.
WE CAME HERE TO KEEP A PROMISE TO THE CHIEF.
WAIT.
AREN'T YOU CHIEF ZON'S YOUNGER SISTER?
KUN
KUN
KUN
...HM!?
WHAT DID YOU PROMISE THE CHIEF?
TO THINK YOU'D COME ALL THE WAY HERE...
WE DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU. YOU SMELL DIFFERENT.
THE BATH! ..!!
WA GLAMOR!
ARE YOU THE VEGETABLE SELLER!?


I THANK YOU IN THE CHIEF'S PLACE.
ONE OF YOU, PREPARE FOR COMPOUNDING.
I THOUGHT IT WAS ODD THAT THE DRAGON WAS SUDDENLY GONE.
SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED.
...I SEE.




ORC MEDICINE
IT'S READY.
ENERGY
PROTEIN
FAT
CARBS
CALCIUM
VITAMINS
Ingredients
Some sort of fruit (not inspected)—2
Insect-like thing (not inspected)—2
Something-or-other's leg (not inspected)—1
Slimy liquid (not inspected)———200 g
GORI GORI GORI


GOBU (SPLURT)
GU! (SHLURP)
KON (TAP)
BLEH...
KON
BIKU
BIKUN (THRASH)
HNFFF!
HNFFF!
...NA...
I...
I...I'M JUGH...
...OUD OF MA...


DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HER?
S-SAY...
WE WERE ATTACKED BY AN ELF MAGICIAN.
ZU-OOOO
YOU MET HER!?
AGH!?
ONLY THAT SHE WAS HERE LONG BEFORE WE MOVED IN...
...AND THAT SHE'S SAID TO RULE THE DUNGEON.
.....
I DON'T KNOW ANY PARTIC-ULARS.
UM.
BROWN SKIN, SILVER HAIR...?
THAT'S THE ONE.
SHE CAN KILL ANYTHING, JUST BY PAGING THROUGH A BOOK.
SHE CREATES MON-STERS, CON-TROLS THEM...
... CHANGES THE LAY OF THE LAND...
IF OUTSIDERS MEDDLE WITH THE DUNGEON MORE THAN NECESSARY ...
...SHE APPEARS.


...WE CAUGHT THE ATTENTION OF THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN?
DON'T EVEN JOKE ABOUT THAT!
RULES THE DUNGEON?
YOU MEAN...
SHE HAS SEVERAL MONSTERS WORKING FOR HER.
IF YOU KILL THEM, YOU DRAW HER ANGER.
WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE NOW!
SOWA (PANIC)
SOWA
DID KILLING THE RED DRAGON DO IT?
DID MARCILLE'S MAGIC ATTRACT HER?
DAMMIT!
WHEN THOSE TWO WAKE UP, THEY'LL WANT TO GO LOOK FOR FALIN.
WE'VE GOT TO MAKE THEM GIVE UP.
MEAN-ING...?
TO GUARD AGAINST THAT, MY BIG BROTHER TOLD US NOT TO TOUCH THE RED DRAGON.
MY BROTHER IS ALWAYS RIGHT.
THAT JERK.


IF WE DON'T, THOSE IDIOTS WILL NEVER GIVE UP.
YEAH, I DO!
ANY-THING'S FINE.
WE COULD BURN HER STAFF.
OR SAY THAT WE'RE SATISFIED NOW WE'VE EATEN DRAGON MEAT.
OR THAT WE SAW FALIN SET OFF FOR THE SURFACE.
YOU MEAN TRICK THEM?
IF WE GO ANY FURTHER, WE'LL BE KILLED FOR SURE.
DO YOU WANT TO BE PART OF THE WALL?
I SURE DON'T.
.....
THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO WAY I'M DYING WITH THOSE TWO.


NO.
THE STINK OF YOUR ROTTEN NATURE MIGHT RUB OFF ON ME.
HMM...
SAY...
I'D LIKE TO GO PICK UP THE THINGS WE LEFT.
COULD YOU SHOW US THE WAY?
HE'S A COWARD, BUT HE ISN'T A BAD PERSON.
TAKE HIM THERE.
PLEASE, I'M ASKING YOU AS WELL.
WHA...!?
...IF YOU'RE ASKING, THEN I CAN'T ARGUE.
I DON'T LIKE IT, BUT I'LL GUIDE HIM.
TH—
SOMEBODY NEEDS TO STAY WITH THOSE TWO.
SENSHI! YOU'RE NOT COMING!?


DAMMIT.
THEY'RE ALL IDIOTS, EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM. IDIOTS!
...YEAH.
THE LAST TIME WE SAW HER, SHE WAS ON THE GROUND AT THE FEET OF THAT MAGICIAN.
IT'S PRETTY HARD TO BE OPTIMISTIC.
SO YOU LOST A COMPANION?
UH, NO.
JIRO GLARES
IT'S NOTHING.
MAYBE. THAT'S NO EXCUSE FOR TRICKING YOUR COMPANIONS.
TCH!!
PRETTY EASY TO TALK WHEN IT'S NOT YOUR PROBLEM.

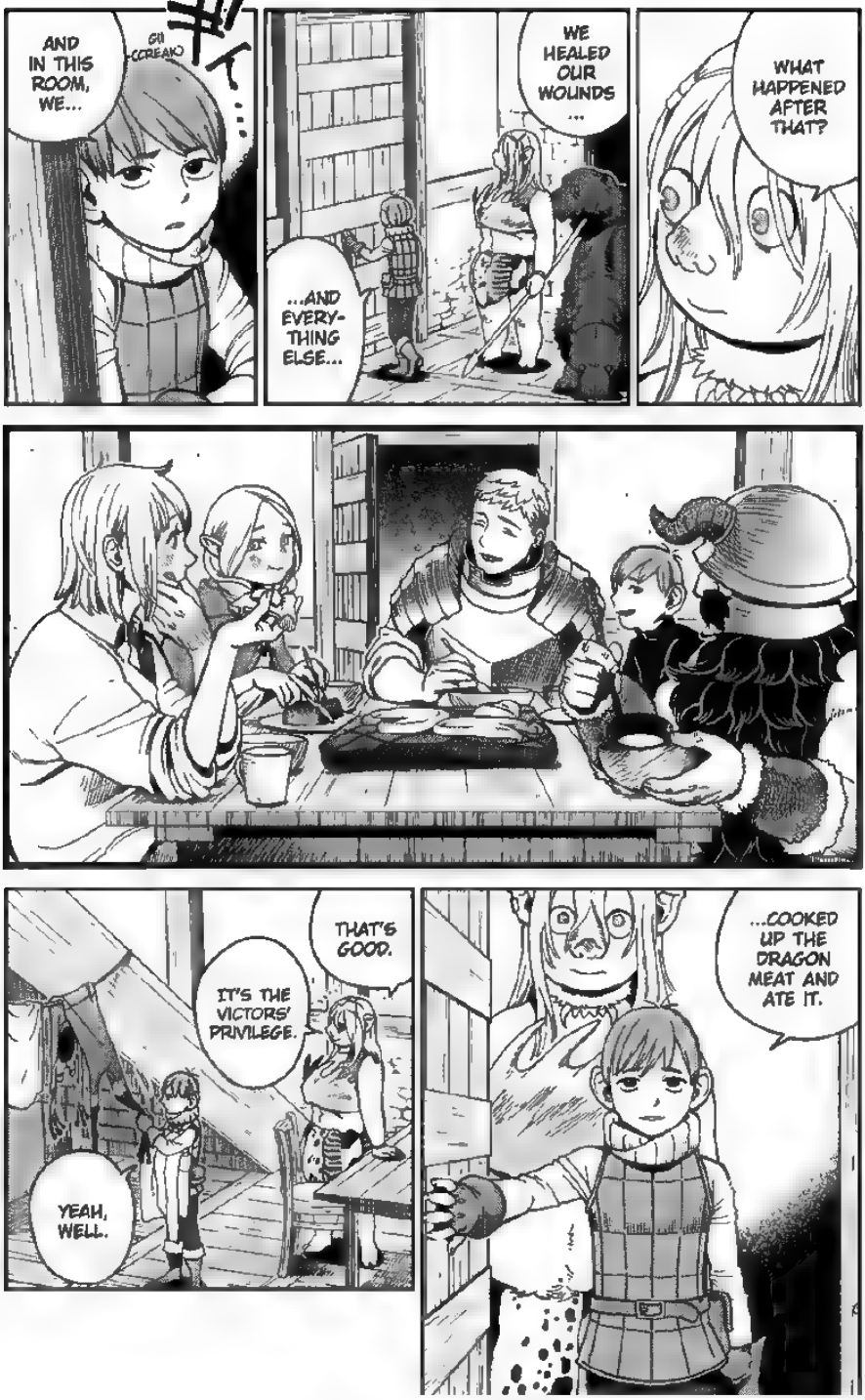

SUU (SWISH)
.....
WH—
BOFU (BAFF)
AGH!
HUH?
BEHIND YOU.
THE GHOSTS AROUND HERE ARE STILL SANE.
THEY ONLY APPEAR WHEN THEY WANT TO BE SEEN.
DON'T MAKE A FUSS.
!?!
HIYARI (CHILL)
SHE'S A RESIDENT OF THIS CITY.
FOR REAL...?
THE PATHS THEY TRAVEL ARE SAFE.
LET'S FOLLOW HER.


I COULD'VE SWORN WE FELL FROM THERE, BUT...
THAT'S WHERE WE WERE.
THE RED DRAGON'S GONE.
OH...!
OVER THERE.
THE DOGS DON'T SEEM WARY.
I'D SAY THE MAGICIAN EITHER ERASED IT OR TOOK IT AWAY.
BIKURI
BIKURI (FLINCH)
NO. DON'T TELL ME...
DID IT... COME BACK TO LIFE!?
ONE OF OUR PARTY CAST A DEFENSIVE SPELL...
AND YOU WERE ALL RIGHT!?
WE USED FIRE NEAR THE DRAGON'S FUEL SAC, AND IT CAUGHT.
...I SEE TRACES OF AN EXPLO-SION...


...IT PROTECTED US, SO WE WERE FINE.
YOU'VE GOT SOME GOOD COMPAN-IONS.
THAT'S NOT THE POINT.
EVEN SHE DIDN'T KNOW SHE COULD USE THAT SPELL.
OUR HEALER CHARGED IN, AND WE WERE ALMOST BLOWN AWAY.
SURE, IT WORKED IN THE END, BUT...
...IF IT HADN'T, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A DUMB MOVE!
THAT'S WHAT THEY'RE LIKE.


HOW DID YOU SLAY THE RED DRAGON ON YOUR OWN ANYWAY?
SENSHI AND I ACTED AS BAIT.
THEN WHEN THERE WAS AN OPENING, LAIOS GRABBED HIS CHANCE, AND—
OH, HE'S THE TALL-MAN. ANYWAY, HE...
...JUMPED RIGHT IN CLOSE AND NAILED THE DRAGON IN A VITAL SPOT.
OH-HO.
THAT'S SPLENDID.
THOSE WHO FIGHT MUST BE COURAGEOUS.


FRANKLY, IT GAVE ME CHILLS.
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO A GUY WHO MAKES DECISIONS LIKE THAT?
...THAT WASN'T COURAGE.
IT WAS A FOOL'S GAMBLE. WE WERE LUCKY IT WORKED.
AND THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN WORTH LOSING A COM-PANION?
I SHOULD HAVE LEFT THEN TOO, INSTEAD OF BEING STUBBORN.
WE HAD COMPANIONS WHO LEFT THE PARTY.
THEY MAY HAVE BEEN THE SMART ONES.
MAYBE HE COULDN'T TURN BACK BECAUSE I SAID I'D GO ALONG.
YOU NEVER KNOW...


AND IN THIS ROOM, WE...
GII (CREAK)
WE HEALED OUR WOUNDS ...
...AND EVERY-THING ELSE...
WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT?
THAT'S GOOD.
IT'S THE VICTORS' PRIVILEGE.
YEAH, WELL.
...COOKED UP THE DRAGON MEAT AND ATE IT.


OUR MAGICIAN HELD UP UNDER THE ATTACKS.
HOW DID YOU SURVIVE?
AND AFTER THAT, THE MAGICIAN APPEARED?
EVEN IF WE GET OUT OF THE DUNGEON, I DOUBT SHE'LL MANAGE TO LIVE A DECENT LIFE.
SHE USES SKETCHY MAGIC TOO.
SHE ACTUALLY IS SILLY.
AND SHE HAD SUCH A SILLY-LOOKING FACE...
HUH?!
THE LONG-EARS WHO WAS ON THE FLOOR!?


THEY ASSUME IF THEY PUSH THEMSELVES, THEIR EFFORTS WILL BE REWARDED.
—TCH.
THEY'RE ALL IDIOTS, MORONS, AND HOPELESS FOOLS.
AFTER ALL, I'M A COWARD, AND MY LIFE IS WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT TO ME!
IF LYING WILL GET US BACK TO THE SURFACE, SO BE IT!
NOT WHAT I MEANT.
SO YOU'RE TRICKING THEM!?
YOU THINK IT'S POSSIBLE TO PERSUADE PEOPLE LIKE THAT!?
THERE'S A BETTER WAY TO DO IT.
JUST BE HONEST AND TELL THEM YOU DON'T WANT THEM TO DIE.


...THAT LITTLE... WHY IS IT HERE?
DID IT CRAWL ALL THE WAY OVER!?
GA! (TRIP)
YOU WERE THE SMARTEST ONE IN THE GROUP.
I'LL LEAVE WITHOUT YOU.
R-RIGHT.
A BLOOD TRACK...
AS IF SOMEONE DRAGGED A CORPSE...






I GOT OUR STUFF.
ガヲ
GACHA (CHAK)


WOW.
ZU
ZU (PRESS)
NOTHING HURTS.
ONLY BECAUSE YOUR NERVES ARE SCREWY FROM THE MEDICINE.
FALIN IS STILL NEARBY. SHE HAS TO BE.


WHOA!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
SERI-OUSLY, REST!


...I NEED TO TALK TO YOU TWO.


HAAAH...


DO (WHUD)
CALM DOWN!


LET ME TALK FIRST.
GU (SHUF)
CHILCHUCK, I THOUGHT ABOUT IT, AND I...
LAIOS.
I CAN'T BEGIN TO KNOW WHAT YOU'RE FEELING RIGHT NOW.
GU (CLENCH)
SOMEBODY WILL DIE FOR SURE.
EVEN SO, AS THINGS STAND...
...WE CAN'T CONTINUE THIS EXPEDITION.


I'M BEGGING YOU, LAIOS!
FOR NOW, GRIT YOUR TEETH AND GO BACK TO THE SURFACE.
IF WE'RE BETTER PREPARED, WE CAN GET TO THIS LEVEL FASTER.
OR WE COULD COLLECT MONEY AND HIRE SOME-BODY!
IF WE SAY WE SAW THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN, THE LORD OF THE ISLAND MIGHT ACT!
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU GUYS!
MAYBE THEY'RE NOT AS INTENSE AS YOUR FEELINGS FOR YOUR SISTER, BUT I'VE GOT THREE PEOPLE TO THINK OF HERE.


...LET'S TURN BACK, LAIOS...
SO...
...PLEASE...
WE SHOULD GO BACK TO TOWN FOR SUPPLIES.
I'D LIKE TO GIVE FALIN A PROPER MEAL.
...WE'RE NEARLY OUT OF SOME FOODSTUFFS, SEASONINGS AND SUCH.
AS A MATTER OF FACT...
...WE'LL DO ALL WE CAN TO HELP YOU.
IF YOU PREPARE AND THEN COME BACK...
MY BROTHER AND THE REST WILL RETURN SOON.
I SENT A MESSENGER TO REPORT THE RED DRAGON'S DEATH.


.....
...ALL RIGHT.
I'M SORRY FOR WORRYING YOU.
LET'S TURN BACK FOR NOW.
OKAY...
SON
DAD
ぼく
CHAPTER 30: THE END

# 31. Sea Serpent, Part 1




A LITTLE EARLIER...
UP WE GET.
IF YOU'D STAYED DEAD IN THE WATER, YOU'D BE FISH FOOD NOW.
BE GRATEFUL TO WHOEVER HAULED YOU OUT.
...IT'S NOT A PERFECT FIX.
YOU DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH BLOOD, SO I USED GOAT BLOOD, BUT...
I'D MAKE A TRIP BACK TO TOWN.
IS YOUR MIND CLEAR?
NOTHING PHYSICALLY SEEMS OFF?
I'M NOT SEEING ANY PROBLEMS...
I'LL LET YOU OFF FOR THE PRICE OF THE GOAT.
REVIVAL FEE.
SUN
(SUN (SNIFF) SUN
I KNOW THIS SMELL!
IT'S THE TREASURE TAKERS!
I KNEW IT! IT'S THOSE GUYS!
HAULED US OUT? YOU DON'T MEAN...
KURO!


YES, THAT'S ALL OF IT
AN ADVENTURER ...?
I THINK... WE WERE ATTACKED BY FISHMEN...
GYU (SQUEEZE)
APPARENTLY, WE DIED AGAIN.
WHAT?
... NOTHING.
YOU'RE ...
I'VE NEVER CHOSEN MY FRIENDS BASED ON HEIGHT.
IS THAT RIGHT.
SO YOU GO FOR DWARFS TOO?
YOU HAVE NO PRINCIPLES.
.....
LET'S GO, NAMARI.
OH. YEAH.


AGAIN ...?
DON'T SCREW WITH ME, PEOPLE!
PYON
PYON
PYON (BOING)
EE YAA!
OUR PROVISIONS ARE GONE!
THEY TOOK THEM! AGAIN!
FOOD..
WHAT DO WE DO, KABRU?
HM...
THAT BURNS ME UP...
MAYBE THEY'D RUN OUT?
THEY LEFT THE MONEY AND JUST TOOK THE FOOD?
WE'LL REALLY HAVE TO TELL THEM OFF.
WITH THE CULPRITS STILL ON THE LOOSE?
WHA —!?
ARE YOU SERIOUS!?
WE'RE OUT OF FOOD. WE CAN'T JUST KEEP GOING.
THERE'S NO HELP FOR IT.
LET'S HEAD BACK TO TOWN.


IT'S LIKE THOSE PEOPLE SAID.
WE SHOULD JUST BE GRATEFUL WE'RE ALIVE.
WE HAVE TO ADMIT WE WEREN'T STRONG ENOUGH.
KURO WILL FOLLOW MIKBELL.
.....
...THEN I'M OKAY WITH IT.
I PROMISE, RIN.
IF YOU PROMISE WE WON'T GIVE UP ON FINDING THE CULPRITS...
ME TOO.
THANK YOU, HOLM.
DAYA.
IF THAT'S YOUR DECISION, KABRU, I'LL OBEY.
THIS EXPEDITION REALLY LEFT US IN THE RED.
SOME OF THEM DO THAT.
HAAAAAH...


IT'S GOTTEN MISTY.
EVERY-BODY BE CAREF...
HM?
!
HFFFH...
HFFFH...
IS IT THE WORK OF A MONSTER?
THIS SN'T A KATURAL MIST!!


FISH-MEN!?
HFFH!
HFF!
THERE ARE SO MANY! WHEN DID THEY...!?
HFF!
HFF!
DAMN. I'LL HAVE TO FIGHT...


HERE IT COMES!!
EEP!
GRAAAA
HHHH


GWK...!?
DYON
DYON
DYON
BYUN
BYUNN
HRRAAA
THAT SLASHING, SWEEPING AX...!
RIGHT.
THIS IS...
I KNOW THAT STYLE.


GA (WHLID)
DOBOO (BLOOSH)
GRR...
??
DAYA. IT'S ME.
CALM DOWN.
SHH!
IT'S OKAY.
GNAAR!


SUN (SHIP)
SUN
KURO CAN TELL IT'S US BY OUR SCENT.
THE CONFUSED ONE WITH THE DAWN WEAPON IS KURO.
THIS MUST IS ILLUSION MAGIC.
HE TENDS TO FREEZE UP WHEN THINGS HAPPEN ALL AT ONCE.
THEN I GUESS THAT SPACEY ONE IS MOLM.
...
BUTSU.
BUTSU BUTSU
RIN!
THE ONE WHO RAN OFF MUST BE MUK.
SU (GRASS)
THEN THE MOST DANGEROUS ONE NOW IS...
HMMM-
IF YOU WANT TO STOP A MAGICIAN'S CHANT PEACEFULLY...
THERE, YOU SEE!? SHE'S CHANTING!
SHE COULD TURN US ALL TO CINDERS.


RINGHA.
YOU CAN TELL, CAN'T YOU?
OKAY.
IN ORDER TO STOP THIS MIST ILLUSION ...
IT'S TOO BAD SHE LOOKS LIKE A MONSTER.
...
THIS IS AN ILLUSION.
TCH!




WH-WHY, YOU—!
DO CHWOK!
HE'LL BE WATCHING US FROM THE FRINGE.
CASTERS DON'T COME AT YOU WITH WEAPONS.
HE'S NOT THE ONE.


THAT ONE!
WHAT...?
WHA...
BLAM!
OPWOOSH
AH...
AAAAGH!


OKAY, YOU GOT US.
WE GIVE!
FU (FFT)
LET HIM GO, WOULDJA?
GYO (SOLT)
THEY'RE THE CORPSE RETRIEV-ERS FROM UP-STAIRS!
THESE GUYS...!


CORPSES RETRIEVED ON LOWER LEVELS ARE WORTH MORE.
IN SUBSIDIES FROM THE ISLAND.
PON (PAT)
WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I DOUBT THIS WAS A CHANCE REUNION.
I BET THEY FOLLOWED US.
THE NERVE!
AHA...
VOILÀ— MORE VALUABLE CORPSES.
PUKA (BLOOD)
THEY KNEW IF THEY FOLLOWED US FROM A DISTANCE...
WE GOT ALL FIRED UP TO RETAKE OUR STOLEN BOUNTY...
...AND WENT TO A LEVEL WE COULDN'T HANDLE.
YOU PANICKED AND TOOK DRASTIC STEPS.
USING AN ILLUSION TO MAKE US KILL OURSELVES.
YOU WERE A LITTLE LATE, THOUGH.
BY THE TIME YOU FOUND US, WE'D BEEN REVIVED...
...AND WERE HEADING BACK TO THE SURFACE.


TOO BAD.
WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT YOU'D GET WIPED OUT BY MONSTERS SO SOON?
HEH HEH.
CLOSE, BUT NOT QUITE.
IDEALLY, YOU WOULD HAVE CAUGHT UP TO THOSE THIEVES AND KILLED EACH OTHER.
SIGH...
WE'RE REPORTING THIS TO THE LORD OF THE ISLAND.
THEFT AND COMBAT AMONG ADVENTURERS ARE GRAVE CRIMES.
YOU LITTLE ...!
AS IT HAPPENS, TWO OF OUR COMPANIONS ARE OUT COLD.
TAKE THEM TO THE RESURRECTION OFFICE. THEY SHOULD PAY YOU A FAIR SUM.
IF YOU GO BACK NOW, YOU'LL LOSE OUT TOO.
WANT TO MAKE A DEAL?
WE'LL TESTIFY THAT THEY WERE ATTACKED BY FISH-MEN.
KURU (TWIRL)
THEY'RE ONLY UNCONSCIOUS.


WHAT DO YOU SAY?
THIS WAY, NOBODY LOSES.
FOR OUR SHARE, WE'LL TAKE... LET'S SEE.
40...NO, 30 PERCENT.
KABRU ...
IT'S A DEAL.
FINE.
.....
GU (LIP?)
SPUN (WHIRR)


DO (SHUNK)
WHA ...!?
GOBO (SPLAT)
YOU LITTLE ...
WELL, OF COURSE.
THAT'S HOW IT SHOULD BE!


YEE...
YEEEEK!
DABON
(SPLOOSH)
DOBO
(SPLASH)


KURO, WOULD YOU GO FIND MIK?
SHE'LL BE HIDING OVER THERE.
WUFF.
TALL-MEN, DWARVES, AND GNOMES ...
THEY ALL HAVE THE SAME VITAL SPOTS.
AND THEY MOVE THE SAME WAY.
IT WOULD BE SIMPLER IF MONSTERS WERE LIKE THAT TOO.
WHEW.
PEOPLE ARE NICE AND EASY.
I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT ANY OF THIS!
PL-PLEASE, LET ME GO!
WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH HIM?
KABRU.
IF THIS GOES ON, EVERYONE DECENT WILL ABANDON THE ISLAND.
MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ARE MAKING THEIR LIVING STEALING FROM OTHERS.
YOU AREN'T TRYING TO BREAK THE DUNGEON'S CURSE.
YOU DON'T WANT TO EXTERMINATE THE MONSTERS.


THAT'S WHY I CAN'T FORGIVE THE LIKES OF YOU.
SNATCH!
NO, DON'T ...

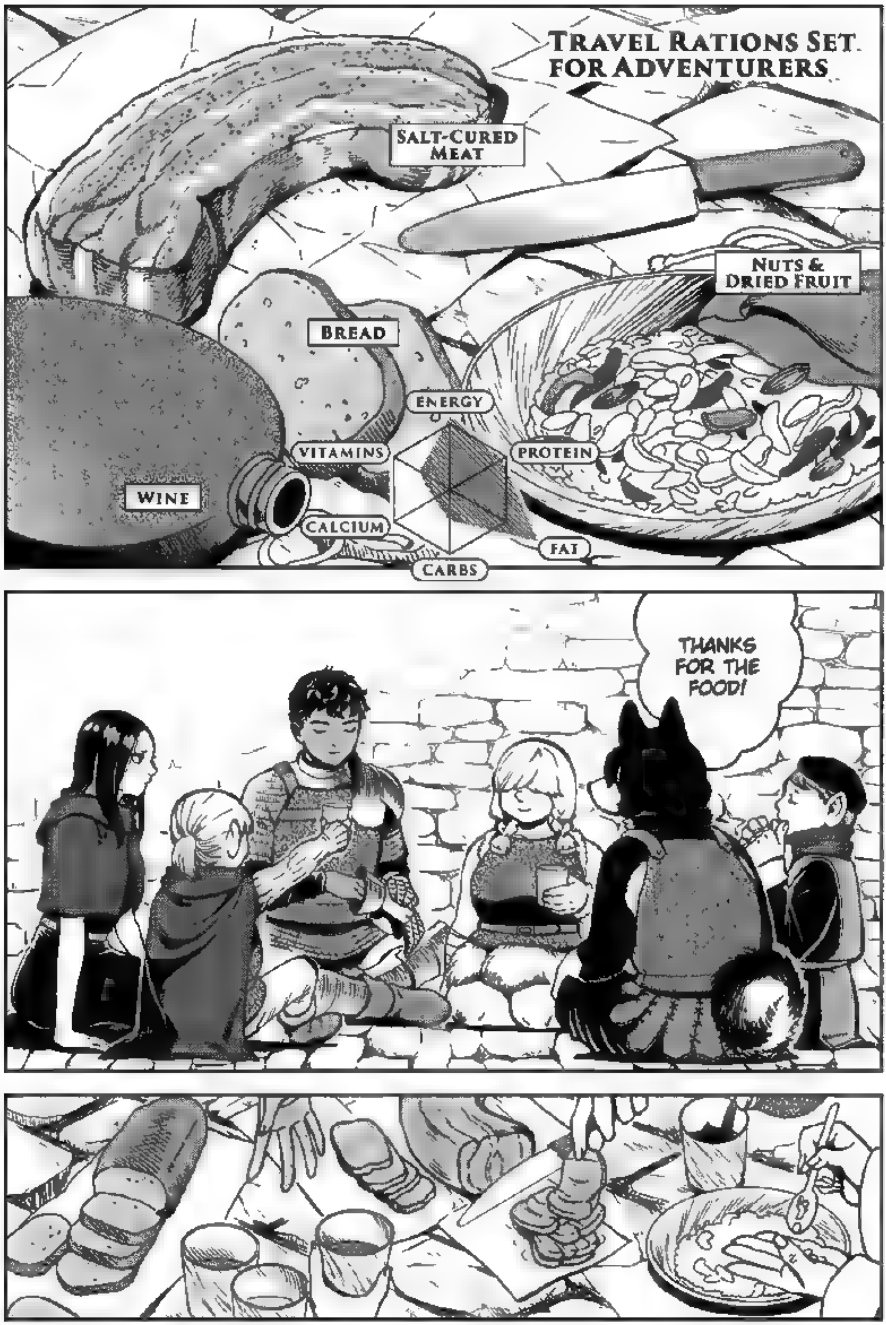

KABRU.
DOBON- (SPLOOSH)
POI (TOSS)
GESHI (KICK)
BOOHH (SPLASH)
...HM?
OH. SORRY ABOUT EARLIER.
THAT'S ALL I COULD MANAGE THAT QUICKLY.
RING PERSPECTIVE
I JUST KEEP FEELING IMPATIENT...
...AND I CAN'T SEEM TO MAKE ANY PROGRESS.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I DON'T KNOW. OR CARE.
OKAY, IF YOU'RE SURE.
THERE'S NO SENSE SUGAR-COATING IT.
THIS IS THE BEST WE CAN DO NOW.
TRUE. THIS IS WHERE THAT IMPATIENCE LANDED US.
THE LOWEST. THE WORST.
WOULD IT KILL YOU TO BE ENCOURAG-ING?


NO ONE GOES DOWN INTO FULLY EXPLORED DUNGEONS, THOUGH.
MAYBE BECAUSE THEY CAN'T DREAM OF STRIKING IT RICH.
MAYBE BECAUSE IT DOESN'T EXCITE THEIR SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE.
TO THE LORD OF THE ISLAND, THE DUNGEON IS JUST A PROFITABLE HOLE.
EVEN IF THE GOLD AND SILVER RUN OUT, HE THINKS HE CAN EKE OUT A LIVING ON MONSTER HIDES AND BONES.
MANY VILLAGES FELL INTO RUIN THAT WAY.
THE POPULATION DROPS, THEN DROPS AGAIN.
MONSTERS FLOOD OUT OF THE DUNGEON AND TORMENT THE RESIDENTS.
MM-HM.
THIS WORLD DOESN'T NEED DUNGEONS OR MONSTERS.
WE HAVE TO BREAK THE DUNGEON'S CURSE, FAST.


...BEING REVIVED DOES MAKE YOU HUNGRY, DOESN'T IT?
I'M HUNGRY.
HUH!? SINK IT!?
IF WE TOOK THAT, WE'D BE JUST LIKE THEM...
KABRU! KABRU!
THOSE GUYS HAD LOTS OF VALUABLE STUFF!
GREAT.
TAKE THEIR FOOD, THEN THROW THE REST IN THE WATER.
HEAR, HEAR!
ONCE THAT'S DONE...
...LET'S HAVE A SNACK.
CHAPTER 31: THE END

# 32. Sea Serpent, Part 2




TRAVEL RATIONS SET FOR ADVENTURERS
SALT-CURED MEAT
NUTS & DRIED FRUIT
BREAD
ENERGY
VITAMINS
PROTEIN
WINE
CALCIUM
FAT
CARBS
THANKS FOR THE FOOD!


SURE, IF YOU MAKE YOUR OWN CORPSES.
CORPSE RETRIEVAL PAYS WELL, DOESN'T IT?
YUM!
THEY WERE EATING GOOD STUFF.
PAKUN (CHOMP)
MOGU (CHEW)
MUGU CHUNGU MUGU
CORRUP-TION...
THEY'RE JUST DIGGING THEIR OWN GRAVES.
EITHER THAT, OR THEY WERE WORKING WITH LOTS OF OTHER PARTIES.
I HEAR THERE'S SOME SORT OF REVIEW REGARDING REWARDS FROM THE ISLAND...
...BUT I GUESS THEY WERE PRETTY CLEVER ABOUT IT.
THE LORD OF THE ISLAND HASN'T CAUGHT ON?
IF HE DOES, THE ELVES WILL SWOOP IN BEFORE YOU CAN BLINK.
YOU THINK THAT IDIOT LORD WILL KEEP GETTING FATTER AND BURST?
WE NEED HIM TO HANG IN THERE AS A BULWARK FOR NOW.
I DOUBT HE'D COME UP WITH GOOD COUNTER-MEASURES.
BEGINNERS LIKE DONI WOULD JUST END UP PAYING FOR IT.
DONI
ARE WE REPORTING THIS TO THE LORD?


KUCHA (GNARF) KUCHA
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THE PARTY THAT PUT THE GHOST WARD ON US.
STILL, A TALL-MAN, A DWARF...
...A HALF-FOOT, AND AN ELF, HM...?
OH. THE JEWEL THIEVES.
THE FOOD STEAL-ERS.
I DOUBT DONI'S GROUP WOULD BE DOWN ON THE THIRD FLOOR.
AH!
NO! IT WASN'T FIONIL, WAS IT!?
FIONIL
THERE AREN'T MANY PARTIES WITH ELVES IN THEM.
IF WE NARROW THE FIELD A BIT, WE MAY BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY THEM.
DOES THIS GHOST WARD TELL YOU ANYTHING?
RIN. HOLM.
PLUS, ONE OF THOSE FOUR IS A HALF-FOOT.
THAT "PARTY OF FOUR" BIT BOTHERS ME TOO.
THAT'S A RECKLESS WAY TO EXPLORE.


I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THAT SORT OF MAGIC.
PAKU (CHOMP)
...LET ME SEE.
YOU'RE STILL WEARING THAT!?
IT'S TECH-NICALLY EVIDENCE.
SHE MAY BE A MAGIC SCHOOL GRADUATE.
THOSE PEOPLE ALL WRITE SIMILAR FORMU-LAS.
..."HONOR STUDENT."
PE (TOSS)
IT FEELS LIKE SHE DID IT BY THE BOOK.
AND IT'S NOT A SPELL SHE DOES OFTEN
SOWA そわ
HMM.
MAGIC SCHOOL...
I SEE...
IT DEFINITELY WAS AN ELF WHO WROTE IT...
SOWA (FIDGET)
MAGIC... SCHOOL ...


WOW, I HOPE I'M RIGHT.
IT'S ONLY A GUESS, BUT...
STILL...
WHAT? DON'T BE A SMART-ASS.
WELL...
WHAT? WHAT IS IT?
...I JUST HAD A THOUGHT.
HM...
THE TOUDEN SIBLINGS' PARTY.
THE SIBLINGS ARE TALL-MEN.
BUT THE GHOST WARD WAS CAST BY AN ELF, RIGHT?
.....
FIRST!
THE TOUDEN SISTER GRADUATED FROM MAGIC SCHOOL!
THEY DON'T SEEM THE TYPE WHO'D TURN TO CRIME.
THE TOU-DENS?
WHY THEM?


MAGIC SCHOOL GRADUATES ARE RARE AROUND HERE.
ESPE-CIALLY ELVES.
SO... I THOUGHT MAYBE THEY'D GONE TO THE SAME MAGIC SCHOOL.
YOU CUT THEM YOURSELF AGAIN!?
AS IF THEY'D BEEN FRIENDS SINCE THEY WERE SMALL.
THE ELF IN THEIR PARTY SEEMED REALLY CLOSE TO THE SISTER.
HANG ON.
JUST HEAR ME OUT.
...OH.
IF IT WERE THE SIBLINGS, THERE'D BE TWO...
IN ANY CASE, THERE WAS ONLY ONE TALL-MAN SCENT.
THAT'S NOT SOLID PROOF.
HM. I GUESS IT'S POSSIBLE, BUT...
EXACTLY!
THAT'S WHY THEY'RE GOING IN RECKLESSLY WITH SUCH A SMALL GROUP!?
DON'T TELL ME...


WHAT?
I THINK SO...
...BECAUSE WE JUST PASSED ONE OF THEM.
THEY LOST EITHER THE BROTHER OR THE SISTER ...
...AND THEN FOUGHT ABOUT WHETHER TO GO RESCUE THEM.
THIS IS STARTING TO SOUND PLAUSIBLE.
ISN'T IT!?
SEVERAL OF THEIR PARTY MAY HAVE LEFT OVER THIS.
THAT PUT THEM IN A BIND, SO THEY TOOK OUR JEWELS AND FOOD...
THEY'VE BEEN ARGUING ABOUT GOALS AND REVENUE FOR A WHILE.
THEY STILL HAVE A DWARF.
ISN'T THAT WEIRD, THEN?
THEY MIGHT HAVE HIRED A NEW ONE.
KUN (SNIFF) KUN
IT REALLY SMELLED.
I DID.
HM? BUT YOU SAID YOU SMELLED A DWARF TOO, KURO.


THE TALL-MEN ARE LAIOS AND FALIN.
THEN THERE'S SHURO, WHO'S PROBABLY AN EASTERNER.
WHO ELSE IS IN THAT PARTY?
LET'S SEE.
NAMARI, THE DWARF WE JUST SAW.
MARCILLE THE ELF.
THE HALF-FOOT IS "CHILCHUCK," OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
IF IT IS THE TOUDEN SIBLINGS' PARTY...
...THEN ONE SIBLING, SHURO, AND NAMARI ARE GONE...
...AND THEY'VE ADDED ONE NEW DWARF...
...I THINK.


THE WEAPONS DEALER?
HE USED TO MANAGE THE ISLAND'S WEAPONS DISTRIBUTION.
JUST THE NAME. SHE'S FAMOUS.
THE ONLY DAUGHTER OF A MAN THEY CALL "THE WEAPONS DEALER."
I SEE. SO THAT WAS NAMARI.
HM.
DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING, DAYA?
BUT ONE DAY, THEY FOUND THAT LARGE SUMS HAD BEEN EMBEZZLED, AND HE DISAPPEARED.
THEY SAY IT'S ONE OF THE THINGS THAT SOURED THE ISLAND LORD'S PERCEPTION OF DWARFS.
IT SMELLED LIKE BAD NEWS.
SO MAYBE IT'S NOT A DECENT DWARF.
BOFU (WHUMP)
ME TOO.
LOTS OF DWARFS HAD A HARD TIME BECAUSE OF THAT...
I DOUBT ANY DECENT DWARF WOULD TAKE HER SPOT IN THE PARTY.


MONEY
MONEY
MONEY
HE'S LIKE, "WHEN YOU MAKE CONTRACTS, GO THROUGH THE GUILD.
"AND THEN PAY ME A BROKER'S FEE."
HE'S A GREEDY JERK!
I KNOW ABOUT THAT CHILCHUCK GUY TOO.
HE'S AN OLD GEEZER.
HE ACTS LIKE HE'S THE REP FOR ALL THE ISLAND'S HALF-FOOTS.
NADEKO
NADEKO (PET)
YOU'RE SO RIGHT!
IF I HADN'T TAKEN YOU IN, YOU'D BE OUT ON THE STREETS RIGHT NOW!
MIK GIVES ME FOOD.
YOU WANT TO WORK FOR ME, RIGHT, KURO?
YOU'D HATE THAT, RIGHT?
SHE'S A GOOD BOSS!
I TOLD HIM I'M NOT JOINING ANY SUCH THING AND RAN OFF.
I MEAN, IF THEY KNEW I'D HIRED A KOBOLD, THEY'D COME TO "HAVE A TALK" WITH ME.
EE HEE HEE!
YOU SHOULDN'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT BASED ON SPECULATION.
HOLM.
...I BET KURO'S BEING WORKED LIKE A DOG FOR PEANUTS.


SO THAT EASTERN TALL-MAN...
HE'S FROM YOUR AREA, RIGHT, RIN?
DO YOU KNOW HIM?
LISTEN...
...DON'T LUMP ALL EASTERNERS TOGETHER.
SOME PLACES DON'T EVEN SPEAK THE SAME LANGUAGE.
AND BESIDES, I WAS BORN HERE.
"SHURO" ISN'T A NAME FROM MY ISLAND.
—IN THAT CASE, I MAY KNOW MORE THAN YOU.
HE SEEMED PRETTY SHADY.
HE TOOK ON THE DUNGEON TO TEST HIS SKILLS.
HE WAS A STANDOUT THERE TOO.
HE CAME TO THE ISLAND WITH A FEW FRIENDS FROM HOME...
...THEN JOINED THE TOWDEN PARTY BY HIMSELF.
...NO, PROBABLY NOT.
BUTSU (MUTTER) BUTSU
DID THEY LOSE BOTH THE SIBLINGS, AND HE STAYED?
HE DIDN'T LOOK LIKE HE'D CARE ABOUT REWARDS OR DANGER...
SO HE LEFT THE PARTY, HUH?


PA (BEAM)
BECAUSE I AM!
THIS IS LOTS OF FUN!
WHY DO YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE ENJOYING THIS?
IT'S A HOBBY.
KABRU, YOU REMEMBER SO MUCH ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE THAT IT'S CREEPY.
...IT BECOMES A HISTORIC EVENT INVOLVING LOTS AND LOTS OF PEOPLE.
...AND THEY'RE ALL ACTING FOR THEIR OWN REASONS.
THERE ARE TONS OF PEOPLE ON THIS ISLAND...
BUT WHEN ALL THOSE SEPARATE ACTIONS ...
...ARE MESHED TOGETHER...
I REALLY HOPE IT'S THE TOUDEN SIBLINGS' PARTY.
AFTER ALL...
SOWA (FIDGET)
SOWA
...BUT I'VE GOT A HUNCH THAT SOMETHING INTERESTING'S GOING TO HAPPEN.
I THOUGHT THIS WAS A BORING CASE OF THEFT...


...I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR AGES...
...FOR SOMEBODY TO UNMASK THEM.
LONG AGO, I HEAR THEY WORKED IN A BAND OF GOLD-PEELERS.
THEY GAVE MOST OF THEIR EARNINGS TO SICK OR INJURED COMPANIONS WHO COULDN'T GO INTO THE DUNGEON ANYMORE.
THEY DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO ME.
YOU'VE GOT A BONE TO PICK WITH THEM?
AAAH...
YES. IT'S AN ADMIRABLE STORY.
BUT THERE'S MORE TO IT.
SOUNDS GOOD TO ME.
BORU CHUNCHU
BORU
HUH.


IN THE END, THEY NEVER WENT BACK TO ADVENTURING.
NOW, THEY SELL ILLEGALLY MANUFACTURED GOODS ON THE ISLAND.
THEIR COMPANIONS HAD HEALED UP AGES AGO, BUT THEY TOOK THE MONEY ANYWAY.
HOWEVER, EVEN IF YOU AREN'T REALLY GIVEN EVERYTHING...
...THE DUNGEON ITSELF IS A RELIC OF THE ANCIENT ELVES.
THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT YOU'D GAIN GREAT INFLUENCE.
AND SO...
"THE ONE TO DEFEAT THE LORD OF THE DUNGEON WILL BE GIVEN EVERYTHING."
THEY SAY THE MAN WHO WAS KING OF THIS COUNTRY SAID SO.
JUST LIKE THE ISLAND'S LORD.
THEY JUST AREN'T INTERESTED IN HUMANS.
IT'S NOT THAT THEY'RE BAD PEOPLE.
...I DON'T THINK IT SHOULD BE THOSE SIBLINGS.


AND TO OUST THAT STUPID LORD OF THE ISLAND TOO.
WE KNOW, KABRU.
WE THINK YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO'S FIT TO LEAD.
IF WE REPORTED THE THEFT, COULDN'T WE RUN THOSE MEN OFF THE ISLAND?
WE'D HAVE TO STAKE OUT THE TOWN AND CATCH THEM WITH THE GOODS.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
WELL, IF WE'RE STILL HAVING TROUBLE WITH RANDOM MONSTERS, WE'VE STILL GOT A LONG WAY TO GO.
チャプ
CHAPU (PUSH)
SHALL WE GO, THEN?
LET'S HOPE WE GET BACK WITHOUT TROUBLE.


DON'T LET THEM DISTRACT YOU!
WATCH WHAT'S UNDER YOUR FEET—
LOOK OUT!
BLADE FIGHT
AGH!




A KRA—
NO, A SEA SERPENT!!
ZA
ZA (EPLASH)
MMPHH
DON DRDDMD
RIN!
GET BA—


BOOM
DOWN
ドン
.....
.....
CHANT...
UGH...
WEIRD STUFF WOULD GET MIXED IN.
I CAN'T BRING "HER" OUT WHEN IT'S LIKE THIS!
...HOLM!


WAIT. WHERE IS ITS CAROTID ARTERY?
WATCH HOW IT MOVES, THEN HIT ITS CAROTID ARTERY OR ITS...
IT DOESN'T MOVE IN COMPLEX WAYS.
YOU HAVE TO HANDLE IT, KABRU.
DON'T PANIC.
'SCUSE ME.
TON (THIP)


SHU
CHHH??
PAAAN
(BLAM)


YUP-YUP!
TADE!
GULI GYAKUDO
DOGGO KNUDOO


IT'S ALL YOURS, YOUNG MASTER!
GURAAA CHEETERO
(WHOOM)
(WHOOM)


ドボ
DOBO (BLOOSH)
DOBON
トボボン
TSU (EGT)

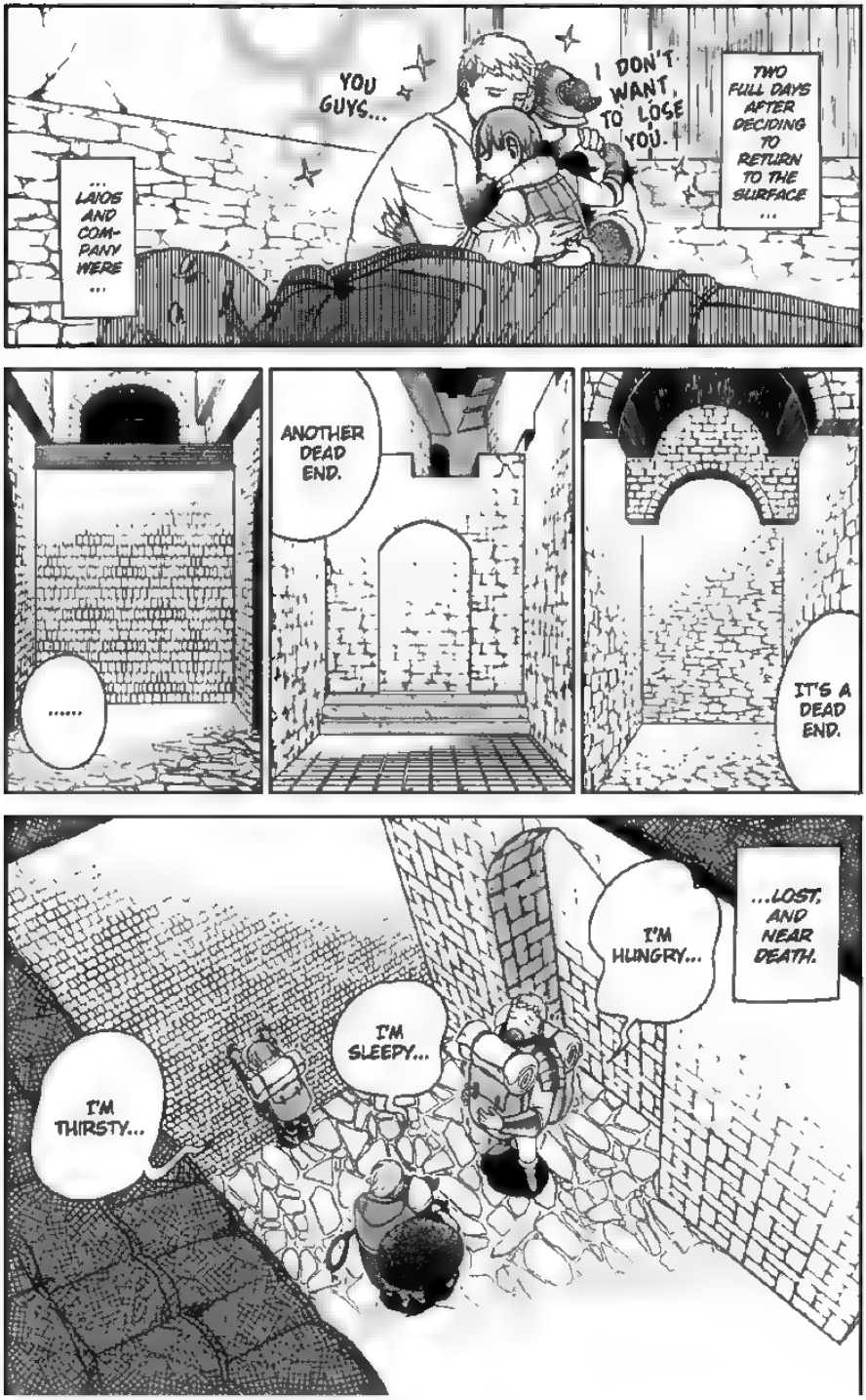

WERE YOUR CLOTHES SOILED?
THAT WAS SPLENDID.
PHEW...
NO.
YOUNG MASTER!!
PASHA
SPLASH
YOU MUST BE TIRED.
NO NEED.
SOME TEA?
WHY DON'T WE HAVE OUR MEAL HERE?
WE'RE IN A HURRY.
SFX: GULURURURU (GURGLE)
TADE'S SUPER-HUNGRY NOW.
HE'S COMPLETELY SMITTEN WITH THAT NORTHERN GIRL.
HE'S A TROUBLE-SOME MASTER.
CHANGE OF PLANS.
HUH?
KABRU? ARE YOU HURT?
ARE YOU AN IDIOT?
WOULDN'T THIS BE YUMMY IF WE STEWED IT WITH RADISHES?


THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME WHEN I WAS IN DANGER.
I'M KABRU.
MAY I ASK YOUR NAME?
EXCUSE ME.
IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN ...
...ARE YOU SEARCHING FOR A WOMAN?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I'M JUST PASSING THROUGH.
MY...!
D-DO YOU KNOW SOME-THING!?
AH. I WAS RIGHT.
YOU HAVE MY SYM-PATHY.
BA CTURN


.....!
I MAY BE OF SOME ASSISTANCE ...
...IN YOUR SEARCH FOR MISS FALIN TOUDEN.
GRRR
HEY! KURO! I TOLD YOU NOT TO MAKE THAT FACE.
IT'S SCARY.
RRRR
HONESTLY! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH IT?

# 33. Dryad



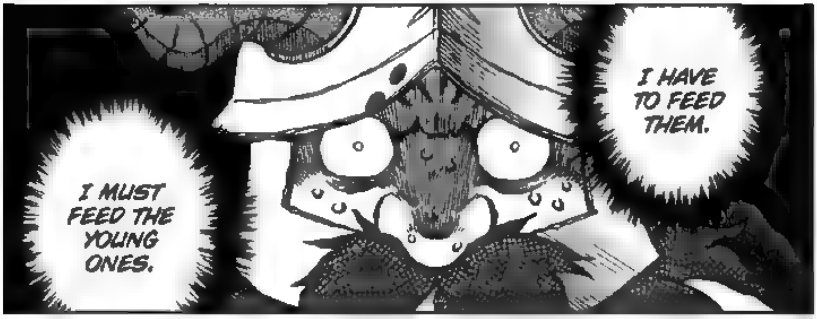

... LAIOS AND COMPANY WERE ...
YOU GUYS...
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU.
TWO FULL DAYS AFTER DECIDING TO RETURN TO THE SURFACE ...
.....
ANOTHER DEAD END.
IT'S A DEAD END.
I'M THIRSTY...
I'M SLEEPY...
I'M HUNGRY...
...LOST, AND NEAR DEATH.


ズ
ズ
ズ
ズ
ズ
(RUMBLE)
WHOA!
ANOTHER EARTH-QUAKE?
ダン!
(SLAM)
DAMN IT! WHAT GIVES!?
THIS WALL WAS NOT HERE LAST TIME WE CAME THROUGH.
I BET IT'S THE MAGICIAN'S DOING.
SHE MAY BE ON HER GUARD AGAINST US.
IT'S NOT AN EARTH-QUAKE.
THE DUNGEON IS MOVING, CHANGING ITS SHAPE.
PATATA (FLUTTER)
HUP!
HANG ON A SECOND.
SOWA... (FROZE?)
SOWA
YOU MEAN SHE'S MAKING US WANDER IN CIRCLES FOREVER?
LET'S TRY MIXING IT UP, THEN.


BAGA (PLAP)
I THINK IT'S GONE.
.....
STILL, SOMEHOW, THE TOWN SEEMS TO BE...
SO WE SHOULD KEEP LOOKING FOR A PATH?
GOING OVER THE WALL MAY NOT BE WISE.


KUH
KUH
HYEH
HEH
HYEH
TOCON
TON (CLACK)
TA (TAP)
TA
TA
TA
...SLOWLY GETTING LIVELIER.
THE RED DRAGON'S DEAD, SO THE MONSTERS THAT WERE HIDING HAVE COME OUT.
BO (WHUD)
NUGYU (SQUISH)
H-HEY!
ZUKI (PANG)
GH...
THIS LEVEL ALWAYS HAD LOTS OF MONSTERS.
NOT MEETING THEM EARLIER WAS SHEER GOOD LU—


HMM.
WE'VE BEEN WALKING EVER SINCE WE LEFT THE ORCS.
WE HAVEN'T HAD A DECENT MEAL SINCE WE ATE THE DRAGON.
THIS ISN'T HEALTHY.
AT SUCH AN AGE, AND I CAN'T FEED THEM PROPERLY.
THE SHAME IS OVER-WHELMING.
I CAN'T REALLY TELL LAIOS'S AGE...
IS HE YOUNG OR FULL-GROWN?
...BUT CHILCHUCK AND MARCILLE ARE PROBABLY STILL GROWING.
THIS IS GOOD.


I MUST FEED THE YOUNG ONES.
I HAVE TO FEED THEM.



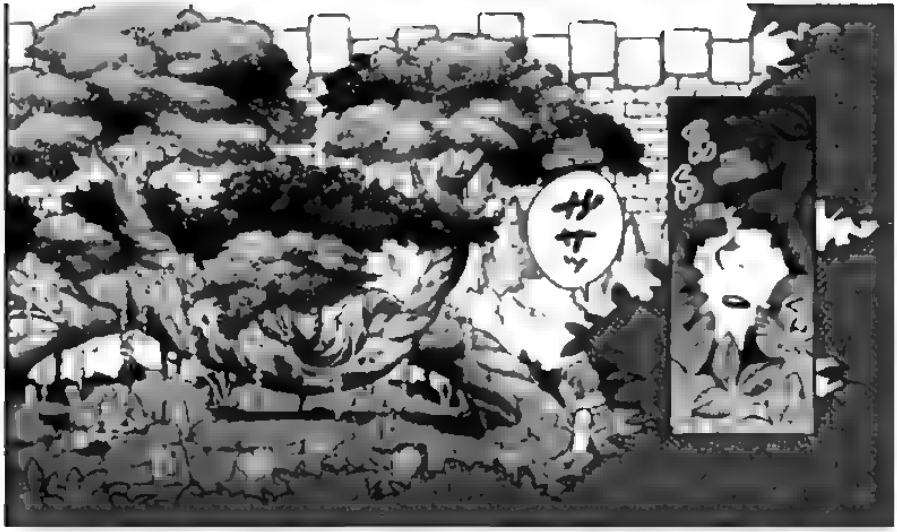

...BUT LOSING THAT PRESERVED DRAGON MEAT HURT.
THE ORCS SHARED SOME RESOURCES WITH US...


FIND IT, CHIL!
WHERE FLOWERS BLOOM, THERE'S WATER..
I'M ON IT!


IS IT FOOD?
KUN (SNIFF)
...SOMETHING SWEET.
KUN


!
NO. MORE LIKE FLOWERS.

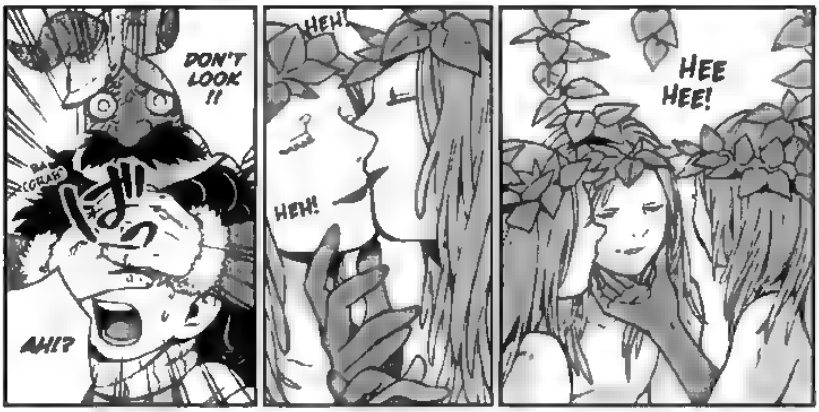

HM?
HIKU (TWITCH)
I SMELL...

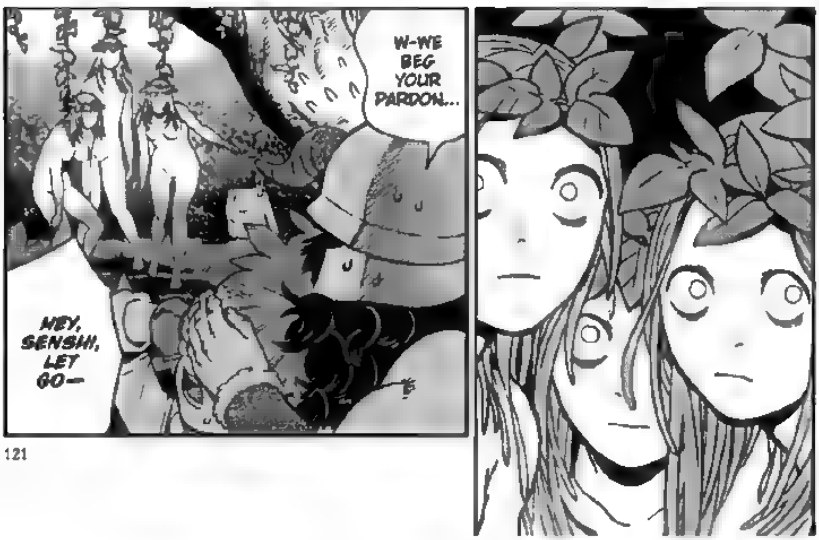

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HAH...
WAIT. SOMEBODY'S HERE
IS IT A GRAVEYARD OR SOMETHING?
THIS PLACE...




DON'T LOOK !!
AH!?
HEH!
HEH!
HEE HEE!


W-WE BEG YOUR PARDON...
HEY, SENSHI, LET GO—


WHOA !?


TCH!!
GET BACK, SENSEI!!
SKIPP!
THEY'RE DRYAD FLOWERS!
KOFF!
THEY'RE NOT HUMAN!
DRAW YOUR WEAPON!
WHAT WAS THAT?!
PTOO!
PTOO!


THE BODY RECOGNIZES THESE PARTICLES, LABELS THEM "HARMFUL" ...
...MOBILIZES ITS IMMUNE SYSTEM, AND SWIFTLY ACTS TO EXPEL THEM.
THESE ULTRA-FINE PARTICLES ENTER THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM...
...THEN CLING TO THE MUCUS MEMBRANES.
THEN THIS FLUID IS...
IT'S NOT A LIQUID.
BUH...
BUH...
BOZ
BOHO (BEAD)
MUZU
IT'S WHAT THEY CALL "HAY FEVER."
BUAACHOO!


DRYAD POLLEN, HUH!?
NOT GOOD. DON'T BREATHE IT, SENGHI.
BWAAA-CHOO!
ACHOO!
AH! OW!
DWEE-CHOO!
WHOA! WHAT!? GROSS!
HAAAA
HAAAGH...
HA...
I CAN'T BREATHE ...
MY WHOLE BODY ITCHES SO MUCH IT BURNS.
BARI (SCRATCH)
HEY, HEY! THIS IS BAD.
THE TEARS WON'T STOP.


WAUGH!
DOKN (BAM)
SHA FWISH
HFF!
DAMN IT.
HFF!
MY EYES ARE GETTING ...
HFF!
KENGUKE.
LAIOS!
KENGUKE
GET UP AND SNAP OUT OF IT, SENSHI.
PWEH.
ONE...
TWO, AND...
GIRI
GIRI CKRUNCHO
...SENSHI.
STRETCH OUT YOUR HAND.
ON MY SIGNAL, SLASH BEHIND YOU WITH IT.


THREE!!
ANRGH!


BOO (WAZY)
MY VISION IS...
GOSHI (RUB)
CRUD.
MY EYES ARE ITCHING NOW TOO.
A...
CHOO!
ZU OSHUNO
BUN (SWING)
KIRAERI (FLIP)
OHK ...!
ZU (GRIP)


HYU
HYU
HYU
DO
DO
DO
DO
SENSHI, RUN FOR IT!
I CAN'T!
I HAVE TO PROTECT THE YOUNG PEOPLE.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO...
ALL YOUR SENSES ARE SHARP, AREN'T THEY?
.....
ZUU (SHOCK)
YOU BE MY EYES, CHIL-CHUCK.
I CAN'T. I CAN'T SEE A THING.

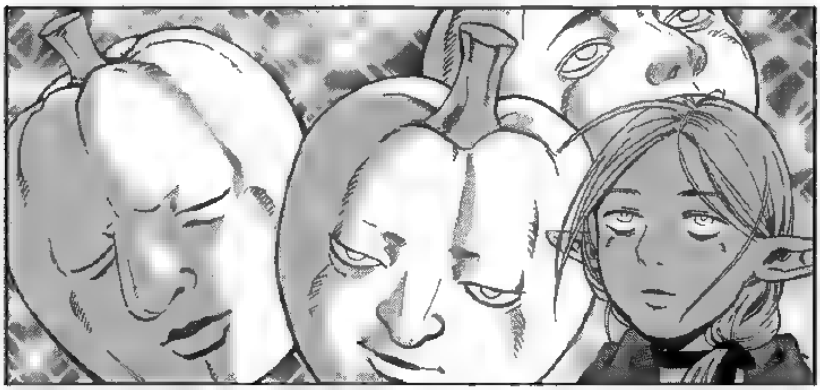

SMELL...
IT'S NO GOOD. THE SCENT OF THE POLLEN IS TOO STRONG.
AND SOUND... SENSHI'S SNEEZES ARE NOISY!!
I CAN'T TRUST MY EYES, NOSE, OR EARS...
WIND!
IT AVOIDED YOUR SNEEZE AND DODGED BEHIND YOU TO THE RIGHT!
SWING UP JUST LIKE THAT, SENSHI!


ナル!!
フワ


SNAPPED RIGHT IN TWO...
HAAAH!
IF I DON'T FIX IT AND GIVE IT MANA QUICKLY, THE STAFF WILL DIE.
SURI (STROKE)
AND AFTER IT TOOK YEARS TO GROW IT THIS MUCH...
AAAAAH!
IT'S SAFE IN HERE...
LIAR!!
IT...
IT...


BASHA (SPLASH)
THAT MUST HAVE BEEN ROUGH.
YOU WERE FIGHTING DRYAD FLOWERS?
GASA (RUSTLE)
GASA
GASA
OH.
DRYADS ARE DIOECIOUS FLOWERS, SO "MALE" AND "FEMALE" IS RIGHT...
I WONDER IF...
STILL, FLOWER MONSTERS...
I WAS SURE THEY WERE REAL MEN AND WOMEN.
MARCI—
AAAH!!
...WE CAN'T BE PICKY NOW. IT FEELS LIKE...
..."AT THIS POINT, SO WHAT IF THE FLOWERS LOOK HUMAN?"
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
SHOULDN'T WE HIT HIM AND MAKE HIM STOP?
HE'S LOOKING FOR SOMETHING...


I FOUND SOME!!



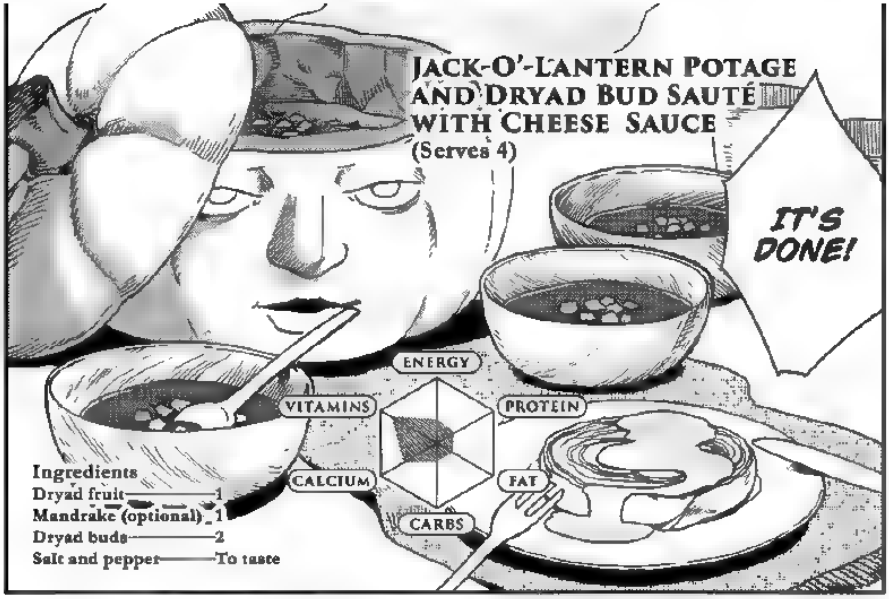

YOUR BLACK MAGIC JOKES AREN'T FUNNY!


NO, QUIT IT!!
TURN BACK..
...TIME...
DON'T JUST START LOOKING FOR RISKY-SOUNDING SPELLS!
THAT CAN'T BE IN THERE!!


.....
BEFORE THEY'RE POLLINATED, FLOWERS CARE FOR AND PROTECT THE FRUIT.
IT WAS PROBABLY A FEMALE.
NO POLLEN CAME OUT OF THE LAST DRYAD I CUT.
LET'S PICK THEM.
THEY MIGHT BE PRETTY GOOD.
SO THESE ARE FINE...? WEIRD.
THESE LOOK EASIER TO EAT.
PUCHI (SNAP)
WHEN IT GETS BIGGER, IT WILL TURN INTO A DRYAD FLOWER.
OH, THAT'S A BUD.
THIS LOOKS LIKE FRUIT TOO.
...ALL RIGHT.
...DON'T TAKE TOO MANY.
GU (SNAP)

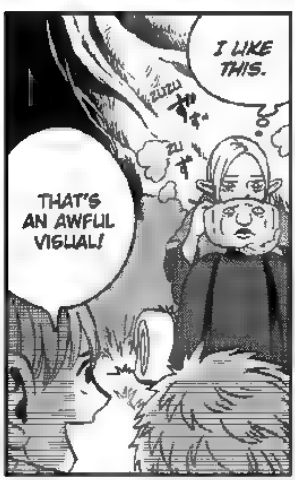

ARE THESE EDIBLE?
LET ME SEE.
OH, SHUT UP.
THERE'S NO TIME TO GET A DOG, SO I'LL JUST CUT OFF IT'S HEAD, OKAY?
JUST DROP IT, WOULD YOU!?
HEY.
MAN-DRAKES.
HM.
THAT'S A PRETTY GOOD HARVEST.
GOOD, VERY GOOD.
DOKI (BOOMP) DOKI
BAKAN CHIKARA
BORROWING AN AX FROM THE ORCS WAS A GOOD IDEA.
I ALMOST TOOK A SPEAR...
?


ONCE YOU HAVE A PASTE, ADD MORE WATER, THEN SEASON-IT.
WHEN THEY'RE SOFT, TAKE THEM OFF THE HEAT...
...AND MASH THEM IN THE POT.
PUT THE CHOPPED INGREDIENTS IN A POT WITH WATER AND BOIL THEM.
FUTSU (BUBBLE)
FUTSU
IN THAT CASE...
MM. IT SMELLS GOOD.
SHAKU (SLICE)
HMM...
POUR MELTED CHEESE OVER THE TOP, AND...
TORO (MELTED)
ADD MUSHROOMS.
SAUTÉ LIGHTLY IN BUTTER.


JACK-O'-LANTERN POTAGE AND DRYAD BUD SAUTÉ WITH CHEESE SAUCE
(Serves 4)
IT'S DONE!
ENERGY
PROTEIN
FAT
CARBS
CALCIUM
VITAMINS
Ingredients
Dryad fruit——1
Mandrake (optional)——1
Dryad buds——2
Salt and pepper——To taste


I'LL EAT IT, BUT...
HIDING BEHIND GOOD INTENTIONS DOESN'T MAKE IT OKAY!


WHY DID YOU PUT IT IN THAT?
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT HELP REPLENISH YOUR MANA A BIT MORE.


I LIKE THIS.
THAT'S AN AWFUL VISUAL!


WOW! IT'S SWEET. THERE'S A FAINT FLORAL FRAGRANCE TO IT.
IT'S REALLY RICH, BUT IT MELTS IN YOUR MOUTH...


ZU (GLURP)


THE CHEESE'S ACIDITY WORKS WELL HERE.
I LIKED THE SLIGHT BITTER-NESS IT HAD.
トローリ
TORORI (DRIBBLE)
キコキコ
KIKO (SAW) KIKO
THERE MUST BE A WAY OUT SOME-WHERE.
PAKU (CHOMP)
SEALING ALL THE PATHS TO THE SURFACE ...
...WOULD CUT OFF THE FLOW OF MANA, SO I DOUBT SHE WILL.
SO HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET OUT?
WHAT IF WE'RE STUCK IN HERE FOREVER?
I'M STARTING TO THINK THIS MIGHT WORK OUT.
THINGS LOOK BETTER ON A FULL STOMACH.
THAT'S IT!
IS THERE ANY LOGIC TO THE CHANGES IN THE DUNGEON?
LET'S JOT DOWN MAPS AND THE INTERVALS BETWEEN TREMORS.


YOU SHOULDN'T PUSH YOURSELF YET...
I'M NOT GOING TO.
I THINK I MAY HAVE RECOVERED SOME MANA.
WE HAVE TO TREAT YOUR WOUNDS, LAIOS AND SENSHI.
PWAH!
AAAH...
I'M ALL WARM NOW.
I'LL TEACH YOU MAGIC.
(1 POINT)
LAIOS!
YOU HAVE TO STEP UP.
WELL, AT HEART, THEY'RE SIMILAR.
IT'S A BIT DIFFERENT FROM THE SYSTEM I USE, BUT...
SHE SPECIALIZES IN THE GNOME MAGIC SYSTEM.
IT'S FINE. I'LL DRUM IT INTO YOU SOON ENOUGH.
TECHNI-CALLY...
FALIN TAUGHT YOU THE BASICS, DIDN'T SHE?
I CAN'T PROTECT ALL OF YOU FROM THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN BY MYSELF.
IF YOU LEARN HEALING AND DEFENSE SPELLS, IT'LL BE MUCH EASIER.


.....!
RIGHT!
WE HAVE TO GET STRONGER.
SATISFIED...
.....
THAT'S HOW YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD BE.
THEY'RE TOO OPTIMISTIC.
THIS GOES LIKE THIS, AND LIKE THAT...
CHIL-CHUCK.
I SEE.
YES. SO WHAT?
I SEE...
YOU SAID YOUR FATHER HAS PASSED, DIDN'T YOU?
I MEAN, IT ENDED UP SAVING ME, BUT...
AND WHY DID YOU COVER MY EYES WHEN THERE WERE MONSTERS AROUND!?
I CAN'T TAKE IT!
LOOK, WOULD YOU STOP TREATING ME LIKE A KID!?


AT YOUR AGE, I BET THESE THINGS ARE STARTING TO INTEREST YOU...
...BUT YOU NEED TO HAVE PROPER KNOWLEDGE OF THEM.
MEAN-ING...?
THIS IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY. I'LL TEACH YOU.
?
YOU SIT THERE.
RIGHT.
HUMANS ALSO HAVE STAMENS AND PISTILS...
AND SO IT WENT ...
...FAR INTO THE NIGHT.
LISTEN SERIOUSLY!!
W-R-O-N-G!!
CHAPTER 33: THE END



## 34. COCKATRICE


GO ON. HURRY!
UM...
ギュ
GYUMU (SQUEEZE)
FUN! (SQUISH)
ぷにぷに…
ちょい
CHON (TAP)


RUDE !!!
BASH!! (FLAP)
AGH!
BACH! (SMACK)
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BAD TO TOUCH IT IN A WEIRD WAY...
THAT'S NOT THE POINT HERE!
PUT OUT YOUR LEFT HAND.
COME ON, FOCUS! FOCUS!
GETTING EMBARRASSED WON'T IMPROVE YOUR MAGIC!
SHE'S STRICT ...
NH...
SURI (STROKE)
THERE.
THIS IS FINE.


LINK THE FLOW THROUGH YOUR PALM...
...FROM THE TOP OF YOUR ...TO HEAD... THE TIPS OF MY TOES.
BE AWARE OF THE MANA CIRCULATING INSIDE US.
VISUALIZE IT AS BLOOD VESSELS.
WHEN YOU THINK YOU HAVE THE RHYTHM...
...CHANT AFTER ME.
SYNCHRO-NIZE OUR BREATH-ING...
...TEM-PERATURE, AND PULSE RATE...


UUUURGH, IT ITCHES! IT ITCHES!
A-ARE YOU OKAY!?
BORI BORI
BORI SCRATCH
GATTAAAN (CLATTER)
ITCHY!!!
OH.
ARE YOU SURE?
THAT'S AMAZING!
IT WORKED! YOU DID IT, LAIOS!
YOU'RE BLEEDING.
THE SCAB CAME OFF.
HUH!?
THANKS.
THE WAY YOU TAUGHT ME WAS NICE AND EASY TO UNDERSTAND.
YES, BECAUSE THE SCAB CAME OFF.
IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS AT FIRST.
YOU'RE A FAST LEARNER, THOUGH.
APTITUDE FOR THIS MUST RUN IN YOUR FAMILY!
BWAH!
AND THEN
HMM.. WHEN IT FEELS RIGHT, YOU GO.
I COULDN'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT FALIN SAID.
BA-BOOM!
SHE WORKS ON INSTINCT.

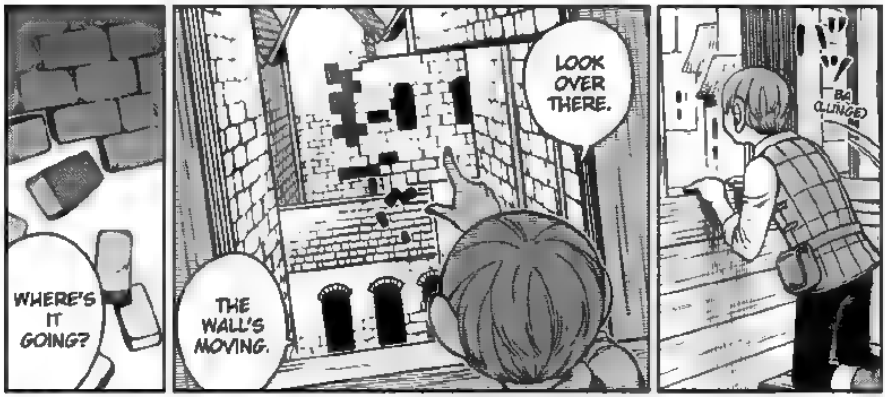

JUST DO WHAT YOU DID BEFORE.
DOKI DOKI DOKI
DOKI (BADMP)
I'LL BE WATCHING.
ALL RIGHT, BEFORE YOU FORGET HOW IT FEELS, TRY DOING IT TO SENSHI.
TSUU (WEAVE)
NOW THEN...
KU (TUG)
KU
I WONDER IF THEY'LL ASSIMILATE...
IT'S A STOPGAP, BUT...
...I'LL USE DRYAD TWIGS TO REPAIR IT.
I'M SORRY...
BAD TOUCH...
I TOLD YOU, THAT'S NOT THE POINT!
SO. (PAT)
HM...


...YOU REALLY CAN'T DISCOUNT THAT SORT OF STUFF.
HEALERS HAVE TO BE IN CONTACT WITH OTHERS A LOT, AND IT CREATES PROBLEMS.
THIS IS AWK-WARD...
COME ON, DON'T GET EMBAR-RASSED.
EMBARRASS-MENT IS IMPROVE-MENT'S BIGGEST ENEMY.
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT FALIN AND SHURO, RIGHT?
IT'S JUST WHAT I'VE SEEN.
GRR
HEY...
ROMANCE, ENVY AND JEALOUSY, GRUDGES AND HATE...
IT'S A NUI-SANCE.
HUMAN RELATION-SHIPS ARE WHAT BREAK UP MOST PARTIES.
LIKE, SAY, KNOWING WHERE OTHER PEOPLE DON'T WANT TO BE TOUCHED.
IF HE HAD THAT...
FRANKLY, MORE THAN MAGIC...
...I'D RATHER LAIOS LEARNED HOW TO SOCIALIZE AND SIZE PEOPLE UP.
MORE THAN COMBAT SKILLS, LEADERS NEED THE ABILITY TO BIND PEOPLE TOGETHER.


WHY DON'T YOU LEARN A BIT ABOUT MAGIC, CHILCHUCK?
AREN'T YOU JUST BLINDLY FEARFUL OF ITS REPUTATION?
...HE WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN ROPED INTO HELPING WITH BLACK MAGIC.
...SO I NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO LEARN ABOUT IT IN DETAIL!
GEE, I'M SORRY I KNOW SO LITTLE.
.....
OH, WOW, I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT!
ANY TIME A HALF-FOOT'S GOTTEN INVOLVED WITH ANTYHING TIED TO BLACK MAGIC..
...THEY'VE BEEN SNATCHED BY ELVES AND NEVER SEEN AGAIN...
ANOTHER DIMENSION...
...FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION WHERE "INFINITY" EXISTS.
...MAGIC THAT DRAWS ENERGY...
THE ANCIENT MAGIC I'M RESEARCHING IS...
...PUT BRIEFLY ...


THEN WHAT ABOUT TURNING A WHOLE LAKE INTO VAPOR?
THE THEORY IS THE SAME...
...BUT ACTUALLY MAKING IT HAPPEN IS HARDER.
HOW WOULD YOU TURN A CUPFUL OF WATER INTO VAPOR?
YOU'D PUT IT OVER A FIRE AND BOIL IT, RIGHT?
IN MANY PLACES, THIS DUNGEON...
...IS LINKED TO ANOTHER DIMENSION.
THAT POWER IS USED TO SUMMON MONSTERS AND CREATE THE DUNGEON
"COORDINATE MAGIC" SUPPORTS SPELLS THAT REQUIRE...
...VAST AMOUNTS OF POWER AND TIME.
I REWROTE A LITTLE OF THE DUNGEON ...
...AND MADE IT SO THAT HER BODY WAS PART OF THE DUNGEON.
JUST FOR A MOMENT, OF COURSE.
BACK THEN, FALIN NO LONGER HAD THE STRENGTH TO RECOVER ON HER OWN.


ANOTHER TREMOR.
ZUZU
ズズ
ZU
ズ
ZU
ズ
IT'S CLOSE.
ZUN CRUMBLED
ズン

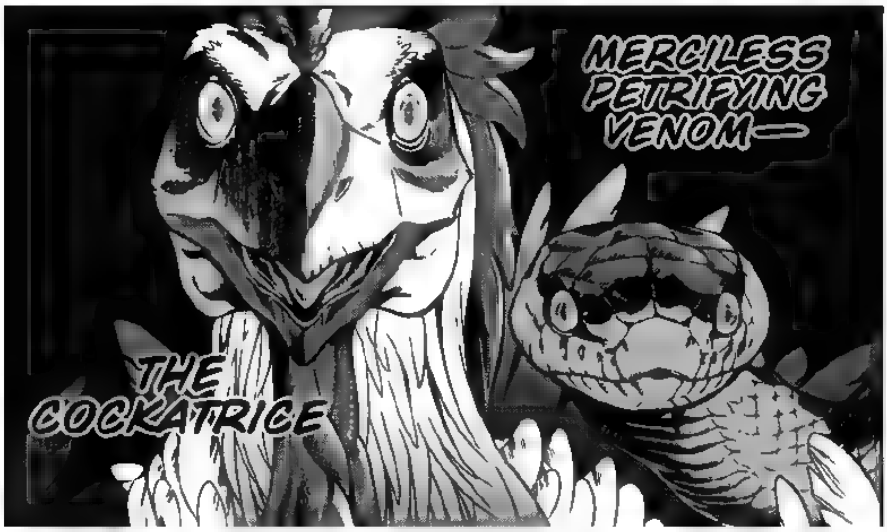

LOOK OVER THERE.
THE WALL'S MOVING.
WHERE'S IT GOING?
BA CLUNGED
!!


GATA GOTON
ガタガタ
GATAAAN GOTTEN
ガターン!!
GOTON (WILLING)
ゴン
HUH?
WANT TO GO TAKE A LOOK?
SURE.


IT SHOULD SUBSIDE SOON, BUT...
.....
.....
...OH.
I BET HE HAS MANA SICKNESS.
HE DID JUST USE MANA FOR THE FIRST TIME.
WH-WHAT'S WRONG I?
I GUH...
I GOT DIZZY ALL OF A...
BATAN (SLAM)
WE'RE LEAVING YOU HERE.
REST QUIETLY, OKAY?
MANA SICK-NESS...
... BITES.
I CAN HEAR WHIS-PERING.
AM I HALLUCI-NATING? HEARING THINGS?
WHETHER MY EYES ARE OPEN OR CLOSED, EVERYTHING'S BRIGHTLY COLORED.
SOME-THING'S CRAWLING AROUND INSIDE ME.


THE ROAD IS CHANGING OVER THERE.
HMM.
ガコ
GAKO (CLUNK)
GAKON
ガコン
WE NEED TO OBSERVE A BIT MORE.
NOT BEING ABLE TO PROGRESS MUCH HURTS, BUT...
I THINK I SEE A PATTERN...
ズ
ZU (RUMBLE)
...OR MAYBE NOT...
THAT WAS CLOSE.
HA!
WE ALMOST GOT STUCK HERE.
THE GROUND IS RISING!
GET DOWN! GET DOWN!
HM?


ズ
ー
ZUN
BOOM


MERCILESS PETRIFYING VENOM—
THE COCKATRICE


YAAAAGH!
IT LOOKS LIKE A BASILISK.
COCKATRICES ARE A HUNDRED TIMES WORSE!
WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T GET BITTEN!
YOU'LL TURN INTO A STATUE.
DOOR ON THE LEFT!
GET INSIDE!
HAN (SLAM)


GARIRI (SCRATCH)
GARIRI
.....
LAIOS TRIVIA
THEY'RE CALLED PIT ORGANS!
IF IT'S LIKE A BASILISK...
...IT'S PROBABLY SENSING OUR BODY HEAT.
MAKING A CLEAN, QUIET GETAWAY WILL BE TOUGH.
COULD WE ESCAPE OUT THE BACK?
GA'SU (SCRATCH)
GORI (SCRAPE)
THIS WON'T HOLD FOR LONG.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
.....
.....
LISTEN, YOU...
MARCILLE.
YOU REMEMBER HOW WE BEAT THE BASILISK, RIGHT?
...STILL, THAT'S THE SNAKE HEAD'S ABILITY.
GARI
THE BIRD HEAD WILL BE RELYING ON SIGHT.
(STARE)


NO MATTER WHAT, DON'T FLINCH!
THROW YOUR BODY AND SOUL INTO INTIMIDATING YOUR OPPONENT.
THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY.
UUU...
YELL AS LOUDLY AS YOU CAN.
KOSO
I'M BAD AT YELLING.
MAKE YOURSELF LOOK BIG.
YES, I AM THE TALLEST ONE OF US...
...BUT THE ENEMY'S TWICE AS BIG AS LAST TIME.
KOSO (SNEAK)
KOSO
WELL, WHAT-EVER.
I JUST NEED TO MAKE THE ENEMY RECOIL!
"BRAWK"!
"BRAWK"!
HUH!?
WHAT WAS THE YELL? "WAAH"?
OR WAS IT "GRAR"?
COULD I HIT IT WITH AN EXPLOSIVE SPELL?
FROM HERE, THE ANGLE'S NOT...
GARI (SCRATCH)
GARI


チラ?
CHIRA (GLANCE)
WAAAAAGH!!
DA DA
DA (TAP)
PAKU (CHOMP)
THE END
I CAN'T DO WHAT LAIOS DID.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
SHEER ENTHUSIASM WON'T BE ENOUGH HERE!!!
I'M ABSOLUTELY GOING TO MESS IT UP!
AGH! THIS WON'T WORK!
TO (THD)
I'LL DO IT MY WAY!
I'LL...
GYU (SQUEEZE)


だん!
ば!
ん!
ド!
THE MOST TALENTED GIRL IN THE HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL—
MARCILLE


RAAA
WHAT WAS THAT EXPLO-SION?
!?
IT'S MAR-CILLE! WE'RE GOING IN!


RGH!
TOO SHAL-LOW!
PUSHU (SPLURT)
GABI (SLASH)
CHANT!
I WON'T MAKE IT—
BOTH HEADS ARE FOCUSED ON ME!?
OH NO... I STOOD OUT TOO MUCH.
HUH!?
HUH?
SHA SHWIP


ドロ
GHK...
GROOOAR!!

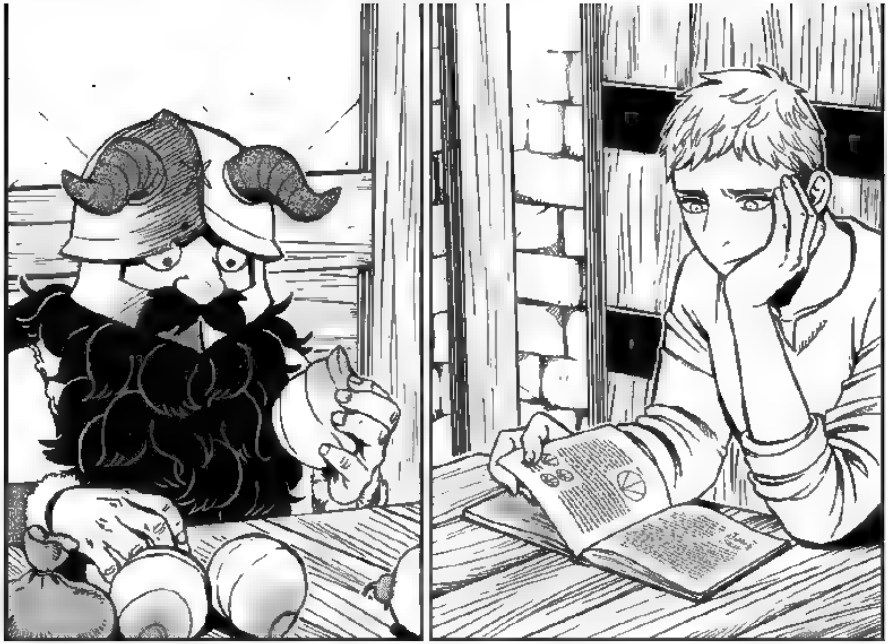

GURAA CTOTTERO

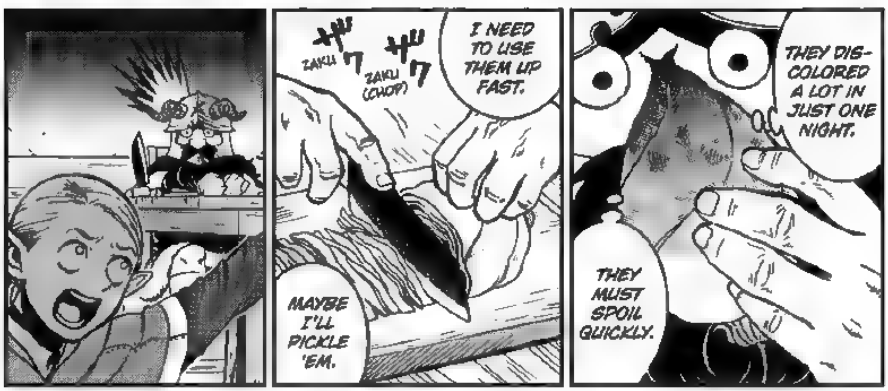

I'M... FINE...
YOU GOT BIT!?
ZUN (WHLIKE)
GA (WHLIKE)
GA
MAR-CILLE!
BATA (OKICK)
ZUPU (SHLLIKE)
SORRY.
HERE. CLIMB ON.
LET'S GET BACK TO LAIOS.
FOR THE LOVE OF...
YOU DID GET BIT! YOU MORON!
...WHAT IF YOU GET HEAVIER AND HEAVIER AND CRUSH ME?
HRNNNH
YES THERE IS A MONSTER LIKE THAT.
NO, YOU'RE LIGHT.
BUT...
I'M SORRY... I'M HEAVY, AREN'T I? ARE YOU OKAY?

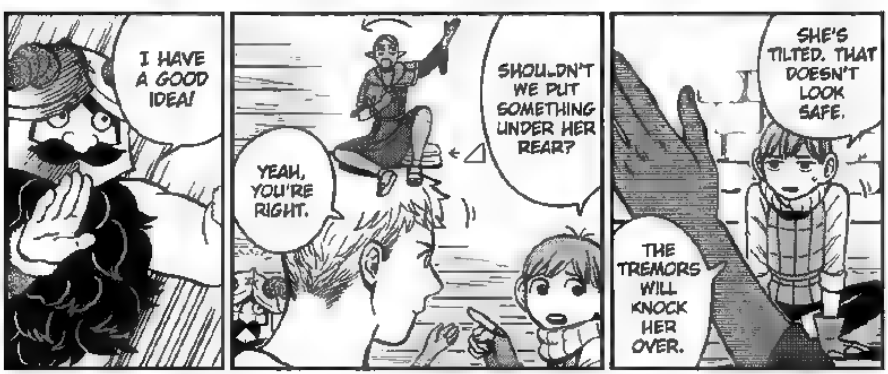

THAT'S AWFUL!
HUH!? A COCKATRICE BIT YOU!?
OH.
WELCOME BACK...
I'LL TEACH YOU RIGHT NOW!
THERE'S A WAY?
DO YOU KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH COCKATRICE BITES?
PULL IN YOUR ARMS. COVER YOUR EARS.
CLOSE YOUR MOUTH.
HFF...
SIT ON THE FLOOR, PUTTING AS MUCH SKIN AGAINST SKIN AS POSSIBLE.
HFF...
HAH!
HAH!
YOUR UNDERWEAR CAN STAY ON.
FIRST, TAKE OFF YOUR TROUSERS.
IT'S NOT A WAY TO AVOID PETRIFYING!?
NOW YOU CAN PETRIFY ANYTIME.
BALLING UP AS TIGHT AS YOU CAN MAKES YOU MORE DURABLE.
YES...
RIGHT.
GOOD...


BISHI
OKSIKO
BISHI
BISHI
A SAFE, STURDY POSE
SHE'S UNBALANCED TOO. SHE COULD TIP OVER ANY SECOND.
WE BLEW IT!
MIGHT BREAK
MIGHT BREAK
AH! AWWW...
SHE HARDENED IN A REALLY UNSAFE POSE!!
MIGHT BREAK
UMM...
WAYS TO UNDO PETRIFICA-TION?
THERE ARE A FEW.
NOBODY WOULD WANT TO END UP LIKE THAT.
SO WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT THIS?


THE SECOND IS DEPETRIFICATION HERBS.
THAT, OR FIND OTHER ADVENTURERS WHO HAVE A CURE.
FIRST OPTION, JUST WAIT FOR IT TO HEAL.
PETRIFICATION IS MORE LIKE A CURSE THAN A VENOM.
ELVES HAVE STRONG RESISTANCE TO MAGIC, SO THEY SHOULD RECOVER FASTER THAN OTHER RACES.
FINALLY...
YOU!?
MARCILLE TAUGHT ME THE BARE BASICS OF HOW TO READ A GRIMOIRE.
THERE SHOULD BE A DEPETRIFICATION SPELL IN HERE.
...I'LL DO MY BEST TO CHANT THE TREATMENT SPELL.
HOW LONG WOULD NATURAL HEALING TAKE?
FOR A TALL-MAN, ANYWHERE FROM SIX MONTHS TO TEN YEARS.
.....
.....
I'LL GO HARVEST THAT COCKATRICE.
WELL, LET'S LOOK FOR HERBS AND ADVENTURERS...
...AND STAY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE OTHER TWO IDEAS.
HRNNN...




ZAKU
ZAKU (CHOP)
I NEED TO USE THEM UP FAST.
MAYBE I'LL PICKLE 'EM.
THEY DIS-COLORED A LOT IN JUST ONE NIGHT.
THEY MUST SPOIL QUICKLY.


I HAVE A GOOD IDEA!
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
SHOULDN'T WE PUT SOMETHING UNDER HER REAR?
SHE'S TILTED. THAT DOESN'T LOOK SAFE.
THE TREMORS WILL KNOCK HER OVER.


ENSNARLED
PUT A MIXTURE OF SHREDDED BUDS AND SEASONINGS IN THE BOTTOM OF THE POT.
SET MARCILLE ON TOP.
POKI
POKI (SNAP)
POKI
AH! HER EYELASHES BROKE
SOAK COCKATRICE MEAT IN SALT WATER...
...SET IT ON MARCILLE'S LAP, AND...
THIS WAY, SHE WON'T FALL OVER.
SHE LOOKS LIKE A HERETIC IDOL.
HM... WELL.
SHE DOES SEEM MORE STABLE.
DAY THREE
DAY TWO
DAY ONE
AFTER THAT, LAIOS AND THE OTHERS WORKED VERY HARD...
IT SHOULD PROBABLY BE REFINED OR COMPOUNDED, BUT..
HOW DO YOU USE IT?
FOUND ONE.....!!
HM, DOES IT JUST LOOK LIKE SOAP?
...AND TRIED ALL SORTS OF THINGS.
...WANT TO TRY STICKING IT ON HER?


DAY FOUR
AM I PRONOUNCING THIS RIGHT?
MY BODY HEAT HAS THE STONE WARMED UP.
NOW FOR THE CHANT...
GYO (SHOCK)
!?
LOOK OU...
GURA GURA
CHIRA (PEEK)


MAR-CILLE ...!!
YOU'RE SOFT!!
...HUH?
WHY THE VEGE-TABLE SLICES!?
WHY THE POT8!?
HUH? HUH?
WHAT!? WHAT'S GOING ON!?
YAAAY!
SUCCESS!


THIS IS A SUCCESS TOO!!
SERI-OUSLY, WHAT!?
LET'S SEE.
.....
DRESS THE FERMENTED BUDS, AND...
SLICE IT THINLY.
THAT'S A WHOLE LOT OF FOAM
BOIL THE SALT-CURED MEAT.
GARNISHED WITH GRILLED DEPETRIFICATION HERBS
EISBEIN-STYLE COCKATRICE WITH SAUERKRAUT-STYLE DRYAD BUDS
(Serves 4)
IT'S DONE!!
ENERGY
PROTEIN
VITAMINS
CALCIUM
CARBS
FAT
Ingredients
Cockatrice shank 1 kg
Dryad buds As much as you like
Depetrification herb (not inspected) 1
Seasonings To taste
Pickling weight (Marcille) 1

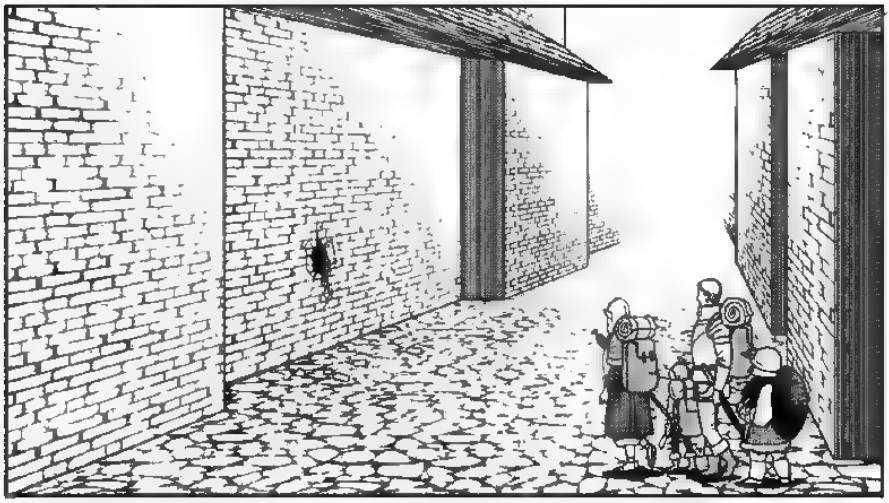

WE TRIED SO MUCH, THERE'S NO WAY TO KNOW.
I WONDER WHAT DID WORK IN THE END.
THE VENOM STILL WON, HUH?
I CAST THE RESISTANCE SPELL AS SOON AS IT BIT ME..
IT'S BEEN THAT LONG!?
HUH?
AH!
NO. NOT THAT.
RIGHT NOW...
I CAUSED THEM TROUBLE, AND AT A TIME LIKE THIS.
I'M SOR—
COULD THE PREPARED COCKATRICE MEAT HAVE NEUTRALIZED THE CURSE?
I BET-IT'S BECAUSE THE MEDICINAL HERBS WERE SO FRESH!
NAH
I HOPE IT WAS MY SPELL.
YES. FIRST AND FOREMOST...
HWOO...
...THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE I SHOULD BE SAYING.
...USE PEOPLE AS PICKLING WEIGHTS.
DO NOT...
CHAPTER 34: THE END



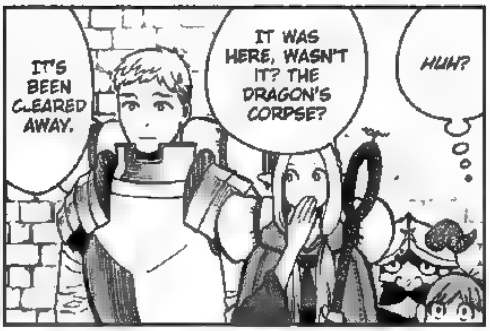
# 35. Cleaners


WHILE YOU PEOPLE WERE MESSING AROUND...
...TURNING TO STONE, GETTING NOSEBLEEDS, AND HUNTING FOR FOOD...
...I'VE IDENTIFIED SEVERAL PATTERNS BEHIND THE CHANGES IN THE DUNGEON.
IT'S NOT AS IF I WANTED TO TURN TO STONE.
EXACTLY.
THAT WAS A PRODUCTIVE THREE DAYS.
YEAH, YEAH.
WHEN ONE PLACE IS BLOCKED, ANOTHER OPENS UP.
BASICALLY, THAT HAPPENS OVER AND OVER.
THE NUMBER OF DOORS, FURNITURE, AND BUILDING TYPES DOESN'T CHANGE
HOUSES DON'T TURN INTO GRAVEYARDS.
BEHIND THAT HOUSE WE FOUND WITH SEVEN BATHROOMS, THERE MUST HAVE BEEN SIX HOUSES WITH NO BATHROOMS.
THE WALLS MOVE IN A CLOCKWISE SPIRAL AT SET INTERVALS.
THE STATUE POSITIONS ARE FIXED, INCLUDING THE DIRECTION THEY FACE.
BASED ON OTHER VARIOUS FACTORS...
OH!


HEH-
WELL, THIS STUFF IS PART OF MY JOB.
CHIL-CHUCK, YOU'RE AMAZING!!
I REMEMBER THIS STREET!
CUTIE!
BIG EARS.
CLEVER BOOTS!
YA LI'L GENIUS!
THAT'S THE HOUSE WHERE WE ATE THE DRAGON.
RAH!
FALIN IS THIS WAY!
IF THEY SEE THAT BLOOD TRAIL, THEY'LL GET WORKED UP AGAIN.
HOW AM I GOING TO TALK THEM DOWN?
IT'S WHERE WE LOST FALIN.
ONLY A POOL OF BLOOD WAS LEFT.
BUT THIS ROAD...
YEAH.
...GO BACK TO THE... SURFACE..
....
UH, LISTEN, THERE'S A LOT TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT...
...BUT FOR NOW, LET'S...
THAT'S...
GIKLI CLUNG'D
LAIOS, LOOK.




I'M SURE THAT CRACK IN THE WALL IS FROM WHEN THE DRAGON FELL, THOUGH.
IT'S ALMOST CLOSED TOO...


IT'S BEEN CLEARED AWAY.
IT WAS HERE, WASN'T IT? THE DRAGON'S CORPSE?
HUH?


THE MAGI-CIAN'S EYES ARE COMING.


WAUGH!!
ZUSAA (SLIDE)
YEEP!
DON'T YELL LIKE THAT!
I JUST SAW...
HUH?
MANA SICKNESS AGAIN, I GUESS.
AGAIN?
EVER SINCE THEN, EVERY SO OFTEN I HEAR THINGS.
YOU HEAR THINGS? I'M NOT SURE THAT'S MANA SICKNESS.
WHAT DID YOU HEAR?
"THE MAGICIAN'S EYES ARE COMING."
THE MAGI-CIAN'S EYES...
BA (STUMBLE)
YOU MEAN—
KATAKATA (CLATTER)

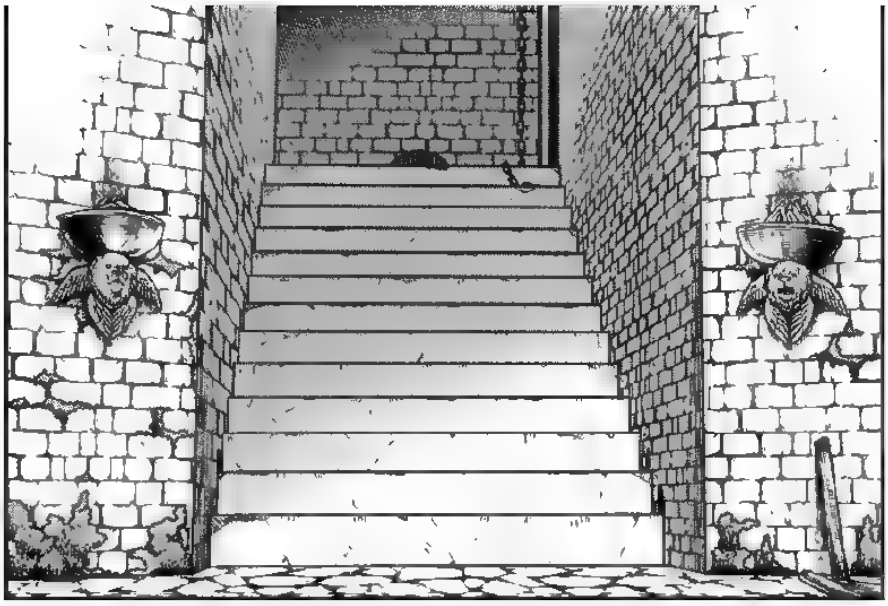

C'MON, MARCILLE, WE'RE RUNNING!
...NO.
WE HAVE TO HIDE.
NO, WE CAN'T.
THIS PLACE IS TOO OPEN.
...WING-BEATS!
ONE OF THOSE SMALL WYVERNS!!
WE'LL HIDE...
HUH?
...IN THE WALL!!
BWFF!
BITTAN (SMACK)
PATA (KICK)
JITA (FLAIL)
JITA
PATA (FLUTTER)
WHAT'S THIS...?
MORE MAGIC, HM...?
COME ON, YOU TWO! HURRY!
OKAY...


PATATA
DOBAA (BLORP)
BWAAAH!
BLEHHHH!
MARCILLE, WHAT WAS THAT SPELL?
HAFF... HAFF...
HAKH...
DOTA (FLOP)


I THOUGHT IT PROBABLY WASN'T SET COMPLETELY YET.
THAT'S RIGHT.
DUNGEON CLEANERS.
THEY'RE CREATURES THAT CLEAN UP DEBRIS IN THE DUNGEON AND REPAIR PLACES THAT GET DESTROYED. RIGHT?
WHAT?
.....CLEANERS?
LOOK. THEY'VE EVEN RECREATED WEAR FROM AGE AND FINE SCRATCHES.
YOU CAN'T TELL WHICH IS WHICH BY SIGHT.
THE FLOOR TOO!
...AND THE CLEANERS START HERE!
MUNI
MUNI (SQUISH)
SAWA (FEEL)
さわ
SAWA
さわ
THIS PART IS THE OLD WALL...
THERE ARE TINY THINGS CRAWLING ALL OVER THE FLOOR!
GROSS!
ZOWA
ぞわ
ZOWA
ぞわ
ZOWA (SHIVER)
ぞわ
BEH!

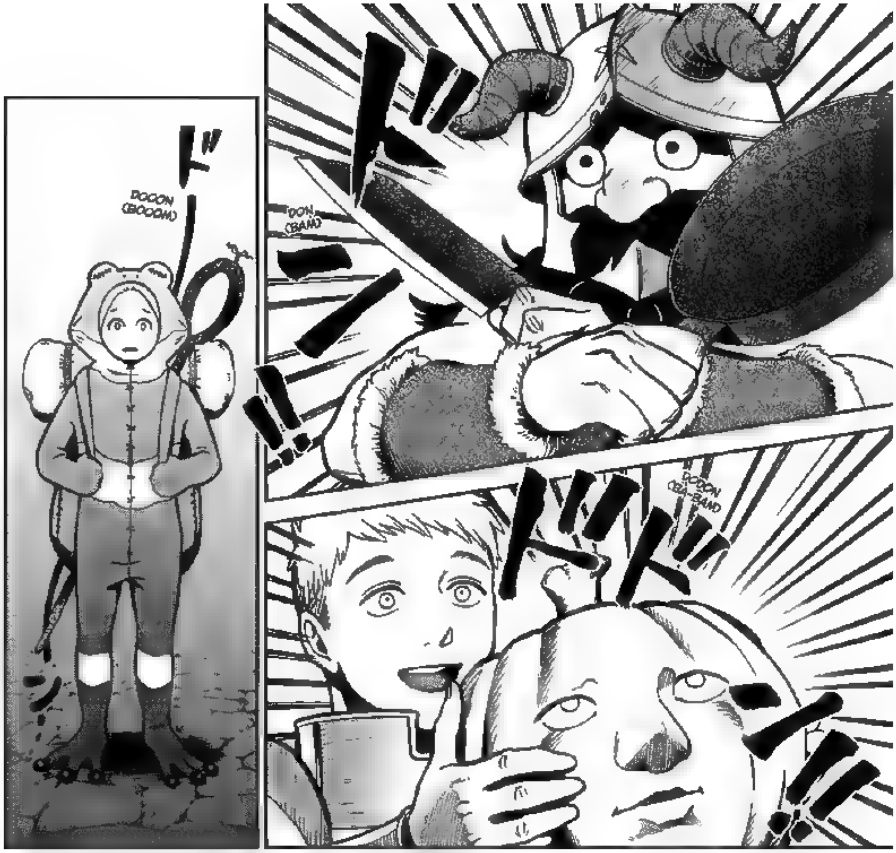

WELL, THEY BREAK DOWN ANYTHING THEY THINK IS IN THE WAY.
SHOO!
SHOO!
THEY PROBABLY CAME TO EAT THE DRAGON'S CORPSE AND THE RUBBLE FROM THE EXPLOSION.
EEEK!
THEY'RE NOT MONSTERS. THEY'RE HARM-LESS.
THEY'RE ALL CLEANERS. A DUNGEON WITHOUT THEM WOULD COLLAPSE RIGHT AWAY.
NO, THEY'RE NOT. THESE CRITTERS CHEW ON MY TENT A LOT.
HA HA.
THEY AREN'T PICKY. THEY'LL EAT ANYTHING, ORGANIC OR NOT.
THEN THEY START TO EAT THE GARBAGE IN THE AREA.
WHEN EXPLOSIONS DAMAGE THE DUNGEON, THEY APPEAR.
THEIR SECRETIONS PREVENT COLLAPSE AND KEEP [redacted] CONTAINED.
DONE.
...RETURNING THE DUNGEON TO ITS ORIGINAL FORM.
FINALLY, THEY SECRETE A LIQUID THAT FILLS IN MISSING PIECES...


FOR CRIPES' SAKE... WHAT'S NEXT, A MAGIC DIGESTIVE SYSTEM?
IN THAT CASE, I WONDER WHAT THE DUNGEON WOULD EAT.
HA HA!
THAT'S DUE TO MAGIC TOO?
AMAZING, ISN'T IT?
IT'S THE SAME WAY LIVING THINGS HEAL.
CLEANERS AREN'T UNLIKE OUR IMMUNE SYSTEM, DESIGNED TO GET RID OF UNWANTED BACTERIA.
WHO ARE YOU CALLING "BACTERIA"?
LET'S GO BEFORE IT CHANGES AGAIN.
RIGHT.
I'M LUCKY THAT BLOOD TRACK'S GONE.
PHEW...



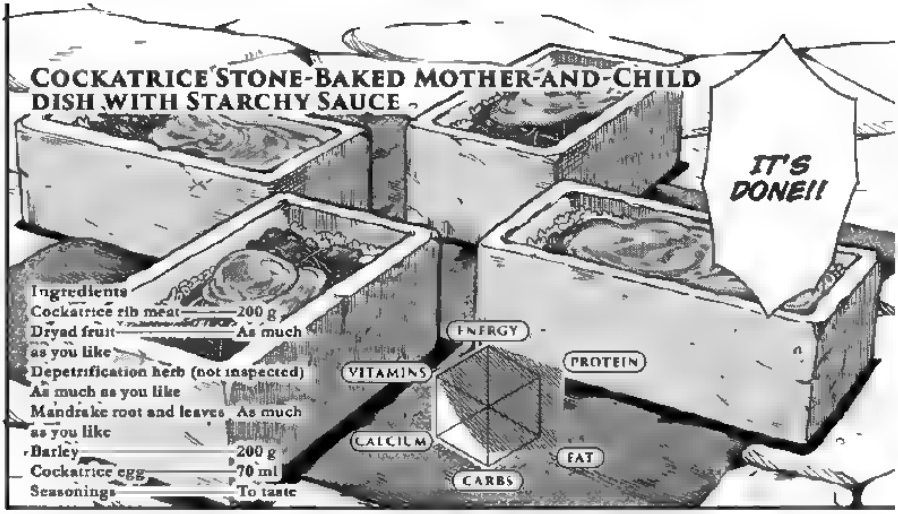

STAIRS!
HAAH...
WE'LL FINALLY BE ABLE TO GET OUT OF HERE.


"THAT"...
I SEE... "THAT," HUH?
AH!
THEN LET'S START GETTING PREPPED WHILE WE'RE HERE.
YES, LET'S GET THINGS READY FOR THAT.

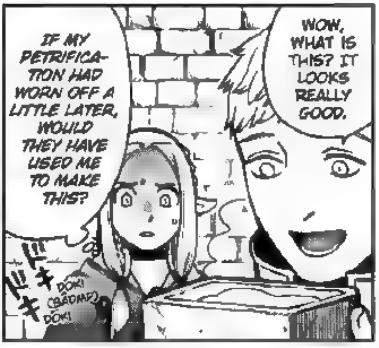

DOOON (BOOOM)
DON (BAM)
DOOON (BOOOM)
DON (BAM)


FOOD.
OKAY! FOOD.
YOU ACTUALLY LIKE THAT THING, DON'T YOU?
I DO NOT!
I DOUBT THERE ARE TENTACLES ON THESE STAIRS.
BEFORE CLIMBING A LONG STAIRWAY, WE SHOULD BUILD UP OUR STRENGTH.
HUH!? BY "THAT," YOU MEANT EAT!?
SAY THAT SOONER!!

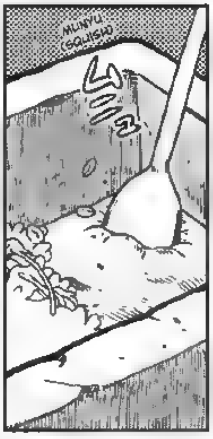

I KEPT IT IN RESERVE FOR WHEN OUR FOOD WAS GONE.
IS THAT THE STUFF WE FOUND ON THE THIRD FLOOR?
THEY HAD SOME LEFT?
COOK SOME GRAIN.
...MAYBE I'LL USE THAT.
HM. WE HAVE SO MANY INGREDIENTS, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE.
HEAT IT, BRICK AND ALL.
SPREAD A LAYER OF GRAIN INSIDE A HOLLOWED-OUT BRICK...
...THEN ADD THE TOPPINGS.
CHOP UP GROUND COCKATRICE MEAT, DRYAD FRUIT, MANDRAKE ROOT AND LEAVES, AND THE LEAVES OF THE DEPETRIFICATION HERB.(?).
SEASON, THEN SAUTÉ.
FINALLY, ADD EGG SAUCE, AND...
TOROO (POUR)
A COCKATRICE EGG.
I BROUGHT IT ALONG, BUT IT'S AWKWARD TO USE.
HUH!? WHAT IS THAT THING!?
TORO~~~
TORO (GLORP)
THEN...
NYU
MUCHA
CHOOP
BIKU
GUNO


COCKATRICE STONE-BAKED MOTHER-AND-CHILD DISH WITH STARCHY SAUCE
IT'S DONE!!
Ingredients
Cockatrice rib meat 200 g
Dryad fruit As much as you like
Depetrification herb (not inspected) As much as you like
Mandrake root and leaves As much as you like
Barley 200 g
Cockatrice egg 70 ml
Seasonings To taste
ENERGY
PROTEIN
VITAMINS
CALCIUM
FAT
CARBS


THE SCORCHED GRAIN IS DELICIOUS.


IF MY PETRIFICATION HAD WORN OFF A LITTLE LATER, WOULD THEY HAVE USED ME TO MAKE THIS?
DOKI DOKI (BADUMP) DOKI
WOW, WHAT IS THIS? IT LOOKS REALLY GOOD.


SO WE CAN EVEN EAT THE DISHES!?
I USED BRICKS MADE OF DUNGEON CLEANERS.
BLEH.
STONE-BAKED DISH
(Serves 1)
Ingredients
Dungeon cleaner secretions


MUSHY (SQUISH)


TRY STICKING YOUR SPOON INTO THE DISH.
HM?


MY FIRST IMPRESSION IS "DIRT."
FURTHER ASSESSMENT PUTS IT CLOSER TO A MAGICAL MIXTURE OF GREEN CATERPILLARS, IRON, AND LEMON...
YOU'RE COMPARING IT TO ALL SORTS OF OTHER THINGS.
...HOW DOES IT TASTE?
PAKKUN (CHOMP)
はっくん
THANK YOU, SENSHI!!
YOU'LL HEAR THINGS AND GET NOSEBLEEDS AGAIN.
YOU SURE YOU SHOULD BE EATING MAGICAL CREATURES?
じょり
JYORI (CRUNCH)
JYORI
じょり
THERE'S JUST NO WAY TO DESCRIBE IT.
WHEN WE GET BACK TO TOWN, YOU NEED TO SEE A DOCTOR ASAP.
A SHRINK?
UMM...
I WONDER WHAT THOSE HALLUCINATIONS ARE.
HM?
IS THIS A DISEASE...?
TON TON (TAP)
A DOCTOR!?


HMMMMMM!!?
UH, ACTUALLY...
I...
I SEE IT.
GASP!
GASP! (TWIRL)
HUH!? AM I HALLUCINATING THIS TOO!?
CAN THE REST OF YOU SEE IT!?
...WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!


GIRI (SQUEEZE)
GIRI
GIRI
GHK...
TSUU (SIGH)
GH...
A CHILD..
THESE HORNS ARE JUST PART OF THE HELMET.
HM?
WHAT'S THIS? FROG SKIN?
STOP IT, MAIZURU.
THEY MAY SHOW THEIR TRUE NATURES..
...IF WE KILL ONE...
SOME DEMONS CAN LOOK HUMAN.
HMPH.
HFF. HFF.


.....!
SHURO!!
...I KNOW THEM.
TOSSHURO
IT'S PROBABLY YOUNG MASTER TOSHIRO.
WHAT'S A SHURO?
ピタ
PITA (STOP)
IMAGINE MEETING YOU HERE! IT'S GREAT TO SEE YOU.
BITTAN (FLOP)
びったん
WOW! SHURO! IT'S BEEN FOREVER!
びったん
BITTAN
HAVE YOU LOST SOME WEIGHT?
TCH!


THANKS, SHURO!
SURE.
WELL, I NEVER! THE NERVE!
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE DOING WELL. I'M GLAD.
BI (SLASH)
WHOA!
BARA (FLUTTER)
BARA
HA! HA! HA!
SHURO'S A GOOD GUY WITH SERIOUS SKILLS.
HE'S ABOUT THE ONLY PERSON WHO'D CALL ME A FRIEND.
HELLO.
OH, LET ME INTRO-DUCE YOU.
THIS IS SENSHI.
SENSHI, THIS IS SHURO. HE USED TO BE PART OF OUR PARTY.
ZLIRARI (CROWD)
YOUR FRIENDS TOO. THEY CAN...
WOW! YOU'VE GOT A REALLY BIG GROUP!
LET'S NOT STAND AROUND TALKING. WANT TO SIT?
WE WERE JUST EATING.


...SAY, KABRU.
ISN'T THAT...?
MY NAME IS KABRU.
IT'S GOOD TO MEET YOU...
YOU'RE LAIOS, AREN'T YOU?
HM? YES, THAT'S ME.
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU.

*To be continued...*


SINCE A SINGLE BITE KILLS A HUMAN INSTANTLY, THERE'S NO ANTIDOTE...
THE OCEAN'S SILENT ASSASSINS.
THEIR POISON CAN KNOCK OUT A WHALE.
SEA SERPENTS
MISC. MONSTER TALES
5
AAAAH!
WHAT HAPPENED, KURO!? YOUR FACE LOOKS FUNNY!!
KUROOO, I'M TIRED. CARRY M—
THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE.
I'M GLAD NOBODY GOT BITTEN.
KOBOLDS HAVE GOOD POISON RESISTANCE.
IF THE POISON WERE WORKING, KURO WOULD BE DEAD ALREADY.
WHAT DO WE DO!? IS KURO GONNA DIE!?
HEY, YOU CLEARLY GOT BITTEN!!
SOMETHING PRICKED ME.
THE SWELLING LASTED FOR A WEEK.
UH-HUH.
IF OUR NINJA DOGS COULD TALK LIKE THAT, WOULD THEY GO AROUND FACELESS?
SNRK!
LOOK WHAT HAPPENED TO KURO'S FACE!!
WHY ARE YOU LAUGHING!?
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO K-KEEP AN EYE ON IT.
TH-THERE'S NO ANTIDOTE ANYWAY.


PERFECT. I'LL USE THIS FLOWER TO EXPLAIN.
...KISSES OR CABBAGE PATCHES.
I KNOW THAT!!
LISTEN. BABIES DON'T COME FROM...
DRYADS
THE SPERM SENT DOWN THE POLLEN TUBE DOWN THE FEMALE'S STYLE FUSES WITH THE EGG CELLS IN THE OVARY.
THIS IS FERTIL-IZATION.
POLLEN
STIGMA
POLLEN TUBE
SPERM CELL
EGG CELL
STYLE
OVARY
...IT PRODUCES A POLLEN TUBE, AND THE POLLEN REACHES THE OVARY
I SAID, I KN—
WHEN THIS POLLEN REACHES THE STIGMA, A PART OF THE PISTIL, OR "FEMALE"...
STA-MENS...
...OR "MALES," HAVE POLLEN.
NOW WE COME TO THE MAIN TOPIC.
WITH MAMMALS—
THE SEED GROWS UNTIL IT TAKES THE SAME FORM AS ITS PARENTS.
...AND SO LIFE IS HANDED DOWN.
THIS IS THE FRUIT
THE FERTILIZED EGG CELL DIVIDES AGAIN AND AGAIN, AND THE OVARY BECOMES A SEED.
LIFE ...
YOU RUINED IT!!
PTAAH!!
I WAS EXPLAINING ONE STEP AT A TIME!
DRYADS POLLINATE BY KISSING.


I'M... NOT SURE.
THE CUT AND PREPARATION WERE DIFFERENT, SO I REALLY DON'T KNOW.
OH...
HM?
WELL? HOW IS IT?
YOU KNOW, COMPARED WITH BASILISK
COCKATRICE
IT SAID THAT COCKATRICE TASTES LIKE STONE...
THE THING IS, IN MY FAVORITE BOOK, THE DUNGEON GOURMET GUIDE...
...THERE WAS A SECTION COMPARING THE TASTE OF BASILISK AND COCKATRICE.
HADN'T YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO COMPARE THEM?
.....
...WHAT GIVES?
IT SAID THAT KRAKEN TASTES GOOD ROASTED.
THAT'S...
THEN HE DIDN'T EAT IT.
LATELY, THOUGH...
...I'VE STARTED TO THINK THE AUTHOR MAY NOT HAVE ACTUALLY EATEN ANY OF THOSE THINGS.
I'VE READ THAT BOOK SO MANY TIMES.
IT DIDN'T TASTE LIKE THAT TO ME.
YEAH
..
LIKE STONE?
...A LITTLE SALTIER THAN BASILISK.
I THINK MAYBE IT'S JUST..
READ ME MORE.
COPY COPY
WOW
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
HMM MORE
OH NO.
I WANNA READ IT
NO!
COPY COPY
HAAAH...
I SEE...


APPROPRIATELY DISTRIBUTING THE TYPES BEST SUITED TO ANY PARTICULAR ENVIRONMENT IS ONE WAY TO SHOW YOUR DUNGEONIUM SKILL.G!
THEY'RE BROADLY CALLED "CLEANERS"...
..BUT THEY EACH HAVE DIFFERENT PREFERENCES AND ACTIVE CONDITIONS.
DUNGEON CLEANERS
BARRIER EXPENSES
...FIRST YOU'D NEED TO ACQUIRE LAND THAT'S SUITABLE FOR A DUNGEON, AND THEN...
LIGHTING
TEMPERATURE REGULATION DEVICES
CONSTRUCTION EXPENSES
AIR FILTRATION SYSTEM
FEES FOR SUMMONING SPIRITS AND MONSTERS
THE TOTAL COST WOULD RUN YOU SEVERAL MILLION GOLD.
I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S ABLE TO STABLY SUPPLY A SPACE THIS VAST.
BURU (SHIVER)
IT'S THAT BAD?
THAT BEING THE CASE... THE AWESOME POWER OF THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN IS TERRIFYING.
TAKE A ROOM THIS SIZE. EVEN IF YOU WERE ONLY PLANNING TO FILL IT WITH SLIMES...
GA (CHIMP)
JUST THINK ABOUT IT!
THAT'S A PRETTY LOWBROW POWER.
I'M SO JEALOUS!
...IS FILTHY RICH!!
YES.
IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN...

# 5

# DELICIOUS IN DUNGEON

## RYOKO KUI

**Translation: Taylor Engel** **Lettering: Abigail Blackman**

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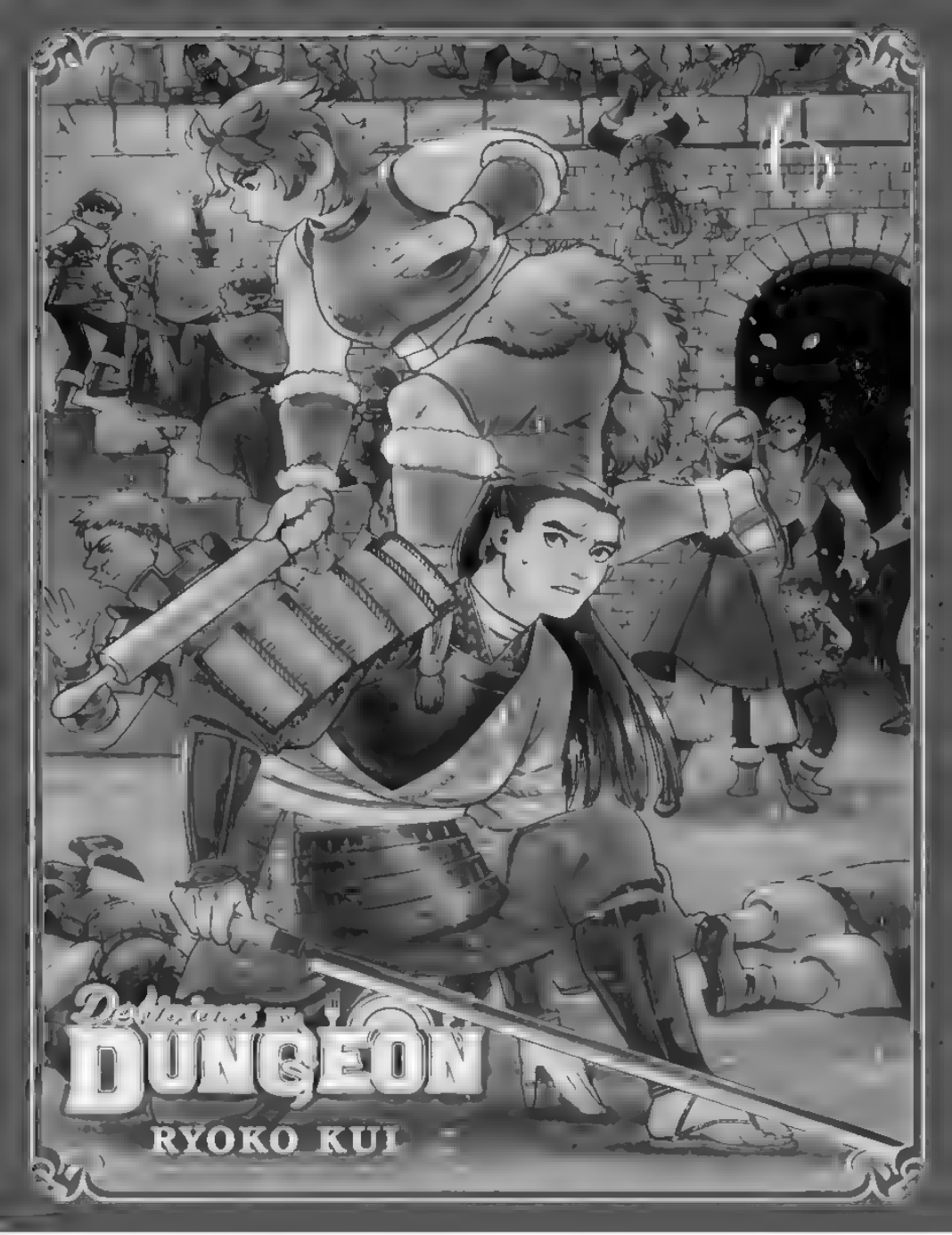
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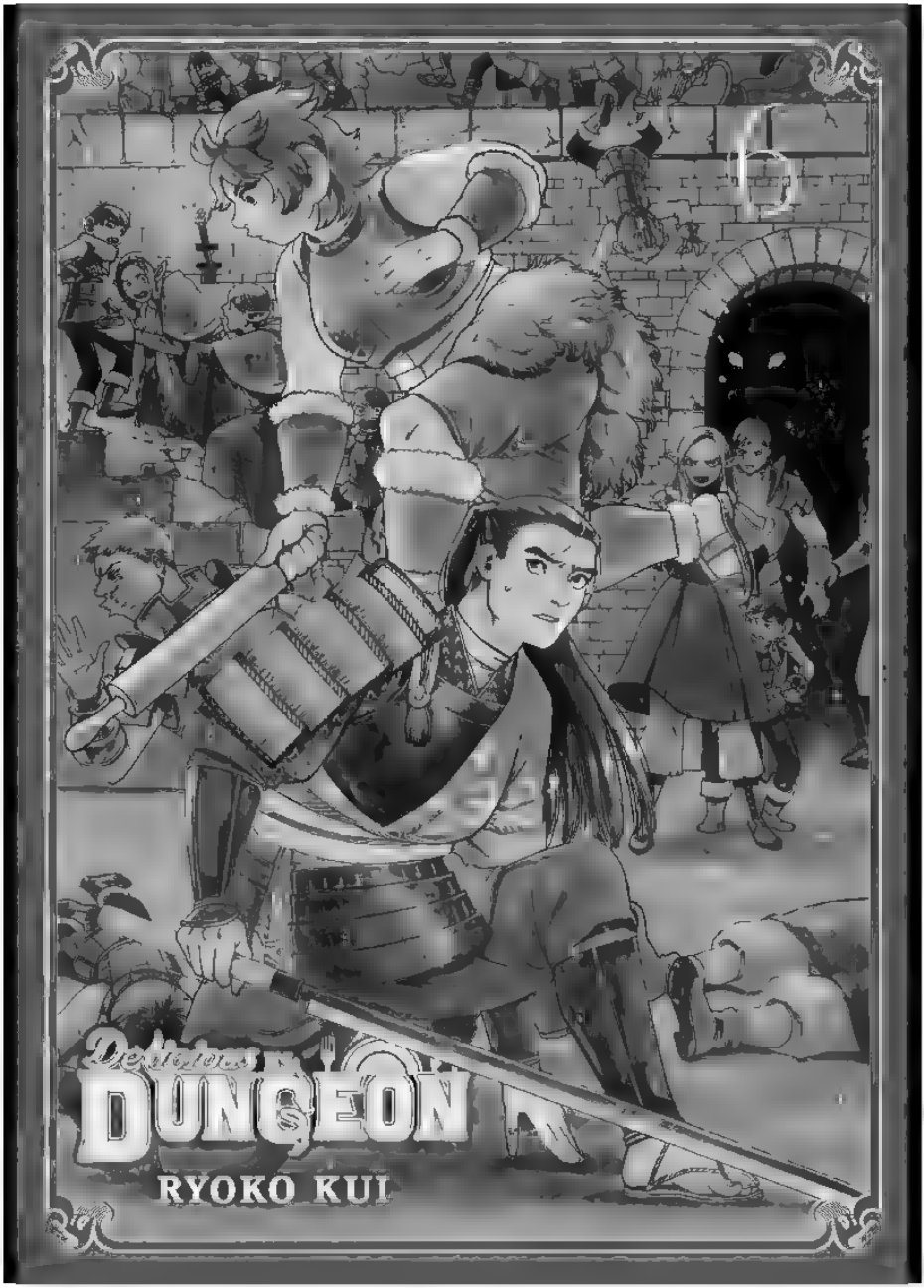
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Delicious in
DUNGEON
RYOKO KUI


Delicious
DUNGEON
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# Delicious in Dungeon



Ryoko Kui

6

# Delicious in Dungeon

6

*Contents*

*Chapter 36* **Dried with Sweet Sake** — 005
*Chapter 37* **Harpy** — 033
*Chapter 38* **Chimera** — 061
*Chapter 39* **Shapeshifter -1-** — 099
*Chapter 40* **Shapeshifter -2-** — 117
*Chapter 41* **Hag** — 143
*Chapter 42* **Nightmare** — 171
*Bonus* **Miscellaneous Monster Tales -6-** — 202




36. Dried with Sweet Sake


...IT'S THEM, ISN'T IT? THE ONES WHO STOLE FROM US?
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
SAY, KABRU...
THEN WHY DID WE COME ALL THIS WAY...?
HUH!?
NOTHING.
HMM ...


URK...
I WANTED TO MEET THEM.
?
MAYBE THEY FORGOT. MAYBE WE WERE WRONG.
MAYBE THE JEWELS WERE A TRAP.
OR IT COULD BE ALL THOSE THINGS.
I DOUBT THERE'S ANY POINT IN ASKING ABOUT THE JEWELS.
THEY DIDN'T LOOK UNEASY WHEN THEY SAW US.
YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW THEY GOT HERE...
...AND WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO DO, DON'T YOU?
WELL, GIVE ME A LITTLE MORE TIME.
SO THIS WAS A WASTED TRIP?


WE WERE GOING IN CIRCLES, AND JUST WHEN WE THOUGHT WE'D FOUND AN EXIT, IT WOULD LEAD SOMEWHERE ELSE.
WE GOT REALLY LOST TOO.
SO! YOU'VE BEEN ON THIS FLOOR FOR QUITE A WHILE, SHURO?
YEAH.
ちらっ
CHIRA (GLANCE)
STILL, SHURO, YOU...
I SEE.
CHILCHUCK FOUND THE PATTERN TO THE CHANGES, THOUGH...
...AND WE FINALLY MADE IT HERE.


THEY'RE JUST FAMILY.
AHEM.
THEY'RE QUITE SKILLED, THOUGH.
THEY'RE ALL WOMEN.
THEY'RE YOUR "OTHER CONNEC-TION"?
CHECK YOU OUT!
YOU TOTAL LETCH!


I'M SORRY.
...I THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE THE BEST WAY TO GET BACK INTO THE DUNGEON AND FIND HER.
THAT'S FINE. THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY.


GABA (BOLT)
HEY HE'S ALIVE
...I APOLOGIZE FOR LEAVING THE PARTY.
HOWEVER, WHEN I REALIZED SHE WASN'T ABOVE-GROUND...


JUST SO YOU'RE AWARE...


WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE IF SOMEONE GOT HURT AGAIN?


STILL, I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D HEAD BACK IN RIGHT AWAY.
WASN'T THAT RASH?


...THE FOUR OF US DEFEATED THE RED DRAGON!
A-ANDY?
WAS SHE...?
GASHI (GRAB)
WHA ...!?
THE RED DRAGON ...?
YOUNG MAS-TER!
SHURO!
DOSAA (WHUMP)
どさあ
KURA (WHAT)
くらっ…


USE YOUR EYES, WOULD YOU? HE LOOKS GAUNT.
YOU'RE PUSHING YOURSELF THAT HARD!?
I'M [redacted] YOU, PLEASE, YOU MUST EAT AND SLEEP PROPERLY.
YOU WON'T LAST LONG LIKE THIS...
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR...
YOU REALLY SHOULD EAT AND SLEEP, YOU KNOW.
GO ON AND EAT.
WHILE YOU DO, I'LL FILL YOU IN.
SLEEPING AND EATING...
...ARE WHAT ENABLE LIVING CREATURES TO DO WHAT THEY WANT TO DO.
SHURO.
YOU DON'T EAT MEALS "WHEN YOU HAVE TIME."
.....
ALL RIGHT.
WOULD YOU FIX ME SOME-THING...
...MAI-ZURU?
PAAAA (BEAM)


A MEAL! PREPARE A MEAL!
YEP!
TADE, YOU GO FETCH WATER.
HIEN, BENICHI-DORI, YOU PREPARE THE RICE.
HIEN
BENICHIDORI
WE CAN'T HAVE YOU ADDING ODD THINGS TO THE FOOD.
...GUARD THE YOUNG MASTER.
ASEBI
ASEBI, YOU...
OWA!
IWA! CHATTER
I'LL LEAVE THAT TO YOU, THEN, DWARF.
MY, HOW CONSIDERATE.
I'LL START A FIRE FOR YOU.


HM. IN THAT CASE...
IT ATTRACTS MONSTERS. TRIGGERS THE DUNGEON TO CHANGE...
IT'S NOT GOOD TO HAVE SO MANY PEOPLE IN ONE PLACE.
LET'S SPLIT INTO THREE.
HMM...
THIS IS A BIG GROUP.
GAAAN GSHOCK
FROG WOMAN!!
GNOME...
DWARF!
O-RIN!
"O"...?
UH-HUH.
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, YOUNG LADY.
MAKE SURE NO MONSTERS APPROACH WHILE THE YOUNG MASTER IS AT TABLE.
THOSE WHO CAN USE MAGIC, CAST A BARRIER HERE.
SURE.


THANKS, KABRU.
I'LL HELP SUPPORT HIM.
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO.
OKAY THEN, SHURO.
LET'S GET A BIT MORE DISTANCE.
AHH, BUGY. SO VERY BUGY..
I'M GOING WITH YOU!
SEN-SHI!!
TA-TAMP
MONSTERS!
AWESOME!
YUM!
MONSTERS.
EAT
EAT THIS
COOKING
DIE
IN THIS CASE...
...WHO'S MORE DANGER-OUS IF LEFT ALONE?


BARREL BATH
I'LL HAVE HIM BATHE AFTER HE EATS.
AND SHAVE HIS WHISKERS AND TEND TO HIS HAIR...
HERE ...?
HEY, AREN'T YOU OVERDOING IT?
THE SMOKE...


I SAID I WAS SORRY
AFTER YOU AND NAMARI LEFT, WE...
JUST THE HIGH-LIGHTS, ALL RIGHT?
NEVER MIND THAT, JUST TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED.
OKAY, SHURO. SIT HERE.
WE DEFEATED THE RED DRAGON, GOT FALIN OUT OF ITS CORPSE, AND RESURRECTED HER...
...BUT WE WERE ATTACKED BY THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN ON THE WAY BACK AND WERE SEPARATED.
WE COULDN'T DO ANY MORE ON OUR OWN...
...SO WE DECIDED TO GO TO THE SURFACE AND ASK FOR HELP, BUT THEN WE GOT LOST...


スゥ
SUU
CHARGE
STILL, I'M GLAD WE RAN INTO YOU HERE!
WOULD YOU HELP US, SHURO!?
UM. CAN I ASK...?
?
YOU STOLE FOOD FROM THE PANTRY!
DIE
HUH?
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU SAW THE MAGI-CIAN?
DOKI (BADUMP)
ドキ
IT JUST SORT OF SEEMED LIKE IT...?
THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN IS THE ONE WHO BUILT THIS DUNGEON, RIGHT?
THERE ARE WHISPERED RUMORS OF A FIGURE WALKING THE DUNGEON, BUT NO ONE'S ACTUALLY SEEN THEM AND COME BACK.
HE'S BAD AT LYING AND HIDING THINGS.
IS THAT RIGHT ...?
HOW, SPECIFI-CALLY?
MAGIC ISN'T MY FIELD, SO I DON'T...
SAYING "BLACK MAGIC" WOULD BE BAD.
UM...
SWEH (MES WEH)
AND HOW DID YOU GET AWAY?
WELL, MARCILLE... OH.
MY MAGICIAN COM-PANION REALLY GAVE IT HER ALL, AND...


WHY WERE YOU EATING BRICKS?
I HAVE A QUESTION TOO.
SFX: DOKI (BADMP)
.....
AH HA HA!
WE LEFT EVERYTHING IN THE DEPTHS. OUR MONEY AND FOOD TOO. REMEMBER?
SO IN ORDER TO GET DOWN HERE FASTER, WE'VE BEEN EATING MONSTERS THE WHOLE WAY.
NO, NO. WE WEREN'T EATING BRICKS.
WE WERE EATING A WALL MADE OF DUNGEON CLEANERS.
HUH!?
OHH...
.....
THAT'S...

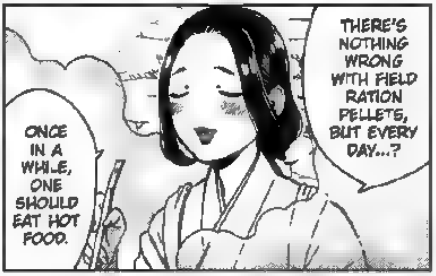

THAT'S A TOUGH ONE!
OH. WOW.
WHAT'S THE BEST THING YOU'VE EATEN SO FAR?
HA HA!
...COMPLETELY HILARIOUS!
WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE SIDE MEMORIES...
NO, MAYBE THE RED DRAGON!
KELPIE... LIVING ARMOR...
YOU ATE THE DRAGON THAT ATE YOUR SISTER?
DUNGEON CLEANERS ARE EATING KENSUKE!
MOGU CHUNCHOP MOGU...
MOGU
WHOA!!
THEY'RE ACTUALLY MOLLUSKS IN SHELLS.
I'M GLAD YOU ASKED.
IS THERE ANYTHING EDIBLE ON LIVING ARMOR?
LOOK, THIS SWORD...
MONSTERS...
PA PA?
YOU JUST CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL.
WHAT A NICE GUY...
NOT GOOD. THIS GUY WILL ACTUALLY BRING ME SOME.
I'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING BEFORE THAT HAPPENS .....
OH YES, PLEASE DO.
...WE'LL SERVE YOU SOME ANYTIME!
BY THE WAY, IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN EATING MONSTERS...

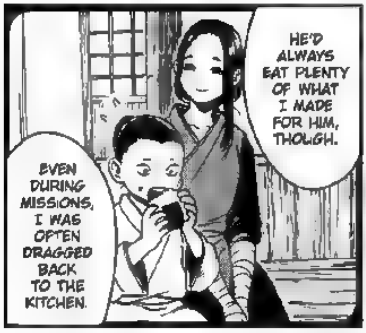

...YOU RESURRECTED HER... FALIN...
...AND WHEN YOU LAST SAW HER, SHE WAS SAFE?
Y-YES.
HAAA
SO...
AH
OH...
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THE ORCS.
HUH?
ANY IDEA WHERE SHE IS?
THERE ARE MANY PLACES TO HIDE ON THIS LEVEL...
...BUT MOST OF THEM ARE ORC STRONGHOLDS.
.....
.....
TECHNICALLY, ADVENTURERS HAVE A DUTY TO PUT THEM DOWN, BUT...
WORKING WITH THEM...
WE DIDN'T EAT THEM!
NO, NO!!
WHAT DID THEY TASTE LIKE?
DUE TO CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, WE'RE CURRENTLY WORKING WITH THEM!

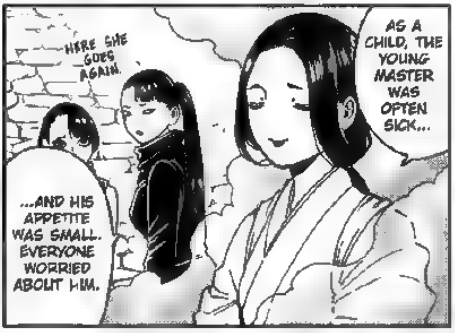

TAKEN AWAY!?
WHY!?
IF IT'S SHURO... IT SHOULD BE SAFE.
WELL, UH...
WE AREN'T SURE, BUT...
...FALIN MAY HAVE BEEN TAKEN AWAY BY THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN.
IF SO, SHE'LL BE ON AN EVEN DEEPER LEVEL.
I'LL STEP OUTSIDE, THEN.
THANK YOU.
GO, ASEBI.
...I'D, UM...
I'D LIKE TO TALK TO HIM ALONE FOR A MINUTE.
...IN ORDER TO RESURRECT FALIN FROM THE STATE SHE WAS IN, WE...
AND...?
RIGHT.

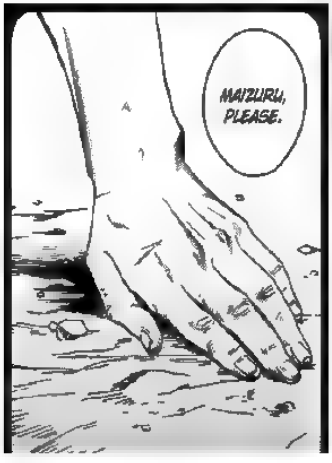

MEALS HAVE TO DO MORE THAN JUST FILL YOUR BELLY.
I'M WITH YOU THERE.
YOU'RE QUITE SENSIBLE, DWARF.

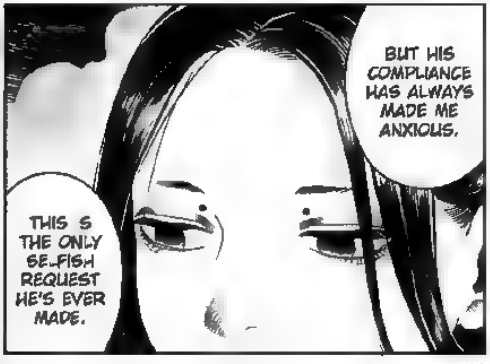

KATA (COLLATTED)


THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH FIELD RATION PELLETS, BUT EVERY DAY...?
ONCE IN A WHILE, ONE SHOULD EAT HOT FOOD.


HE'D ALWAYS EAT PLENTY OF WHAT I MADE FOR HIM, THOUGH.
EVEN DURING MISSIONS, I WAS OFTEN DRAGGED BACK TO THE KITCHEN.

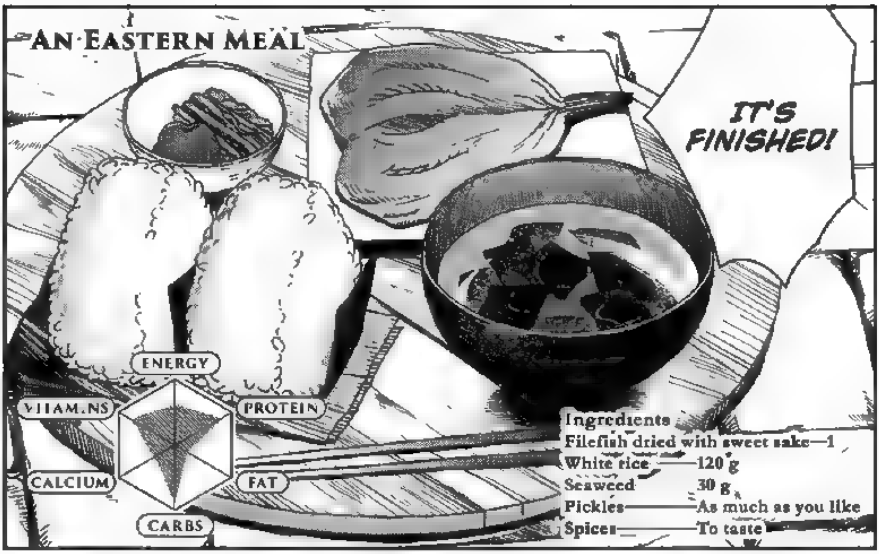

AS A CHILD, THE YOUNG MASTER WAS OFTEN SICK...
HERE SHE GOES AGAIN.
...AND HIS APPETITE WAS SMALL. EVERYONE WORRIED ABOUT HIM.


MAIZURU, PLEASE.

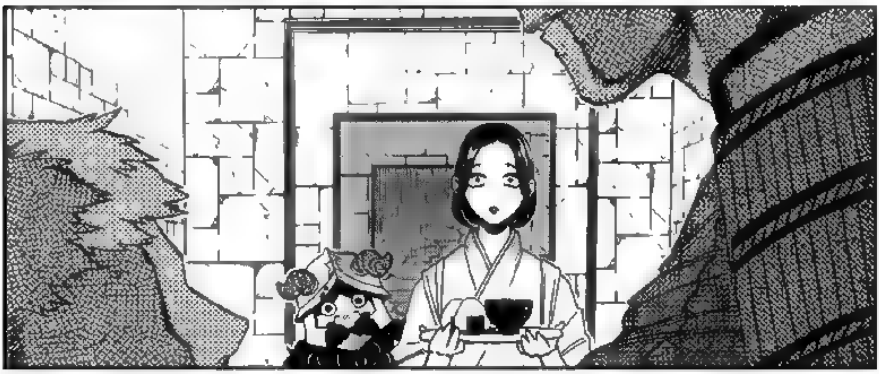

BUT HIS COMPLIANCE HAS ALWAYS MADE ME ANXIOUS.
THIS S THE ONLY SE..FISH REQUEST HE'S EVER MADE.


HAAAS!!!
LEND ME YOUR STRENGTH.
THERE'S SOMEONE I WANT TO SAVE.
I MUSTN'T ACT ON FEELINGS ALONE.
HMPH!
THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY APPOINTED ME TO LOOK AFTER THE YOUNG MASTER.
YOU WANT TO MAKE HIM GIVE UP?
WHAT COULD I HAVE SAID TO DISSUADE HIM?
TO THINK HE'D LOSE HIS HEART TO A NORTHERN GIRL ON HIS TRAINING JOURNEY.
I KNOW WHAT IT WAS...
...THAT YOU PUT IN THERE.
WHY DID HE EAT HEARTILY WHEN YOU MADE HIS FOOD?
IF YOU HAVE PRESERVED RATIONS, THERE'S NO NEED TO GO TO THE TROUBLE OF COOKING.
IN THAT CASE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?


FU-FU! WAS THAT AN ATTEMPT AT A PIQUANT REMARK?
OH! SIMPLY- BECAUSE IT WAS ABOUT FOOD!
PFF.T!
WHAT?
IT WAS LOVE.
DEPENDING ON HOW THINGS TURN OUT...
...I MAY PUT IN A GOOD WORD FOR THEM.
BUT...
YES, IT MAY BE TOO LATE.
FALIROU NAKAMOTO
WE ARE HERE.
TOSHIROU NAKAMOTO
TOSHITSUGU NAKAMOTO
TSUGUYOSHI NAKAMOTO
GOOD. THIS SHOULD DO.
IT MIGHT BE A BIT OF A STRETCH.
THE PAINTING STYLE CHANGED!
NOOOOOO, THAT WOULDN'T WORK!!


AN EASTERN MEAL
IT'S FINISHED!
ENERGY
PROTEIN
FAT
CARBS
CALCIUM
VITAMINS
Ingredients
Filefish dried with sweet sake—1
White rice—120 g
Seaweed—30 g
Pickles—As much as you like
Spices—To taste


WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?
YOUNG MASTER, I'M COMING IN.
WHY ARE YOU TWO OUT HERE?
HM?
THEY WANTED TO TALK IN PRIVATE.
WE MUST HAVE HIM EAT IT WHILE IT'S HOT.
NOW, THEN!

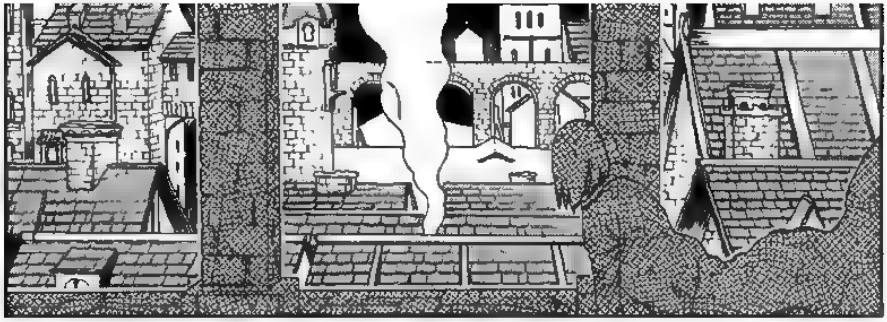



YOUNG MASTER !?
WHAT ON EARTH IS...!?
GARAN (CLATTER)
BA (FLING)
PASHI (SNATCH)
.....


I'M SORRY. WE DON'T KNOW...
TELL ME! WHAT HAP-PENED!?
...
DID THAT MAN DO SOME-THING!?
HE RESURRECTED A WOMAN WITH MONSTER FLESH AND BLOOD USING BLACK MAGIC.
BLACK MAGIC.
BLACK
...


THE REASON AND DEGREE DON'T MATTER.
ALL WHO INVOLVE THEMSELVES WITH BLACK MAGIC...
...ARE CRIMINALS OF THE HIGHEST ORDER.
WHY WOULD YOU...?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'VE DONE?
IF THE ELVES OF THE WEST FIND OUT...
...WHO KNOWS WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO HER...?
THEY'RE LOCKED AWAY IN A LIGHTLESS [redacted] UNTIL DEATH...
...AND EVEN THEIR CORPSES AREN'T RETURNED.
.....
AND YOU WON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS...
...WILL YOU?
THAT'S IF THE STORY LEAVES THE DUNGEON.


WE HAD NO OTHER OPTIONS.
PLEASE UNDER-STAND, SHURO.
IF THIS KEEPS UP, I'LL GET CAUGHT IN THEIR FIGHT AND DIE. HUH?
WHOA..
THAT'S UGLIER THAN ANYTHING I WAS EXPECT-ING.
BLACK MAGIC!
WHAT DO I DO WITH THIS?



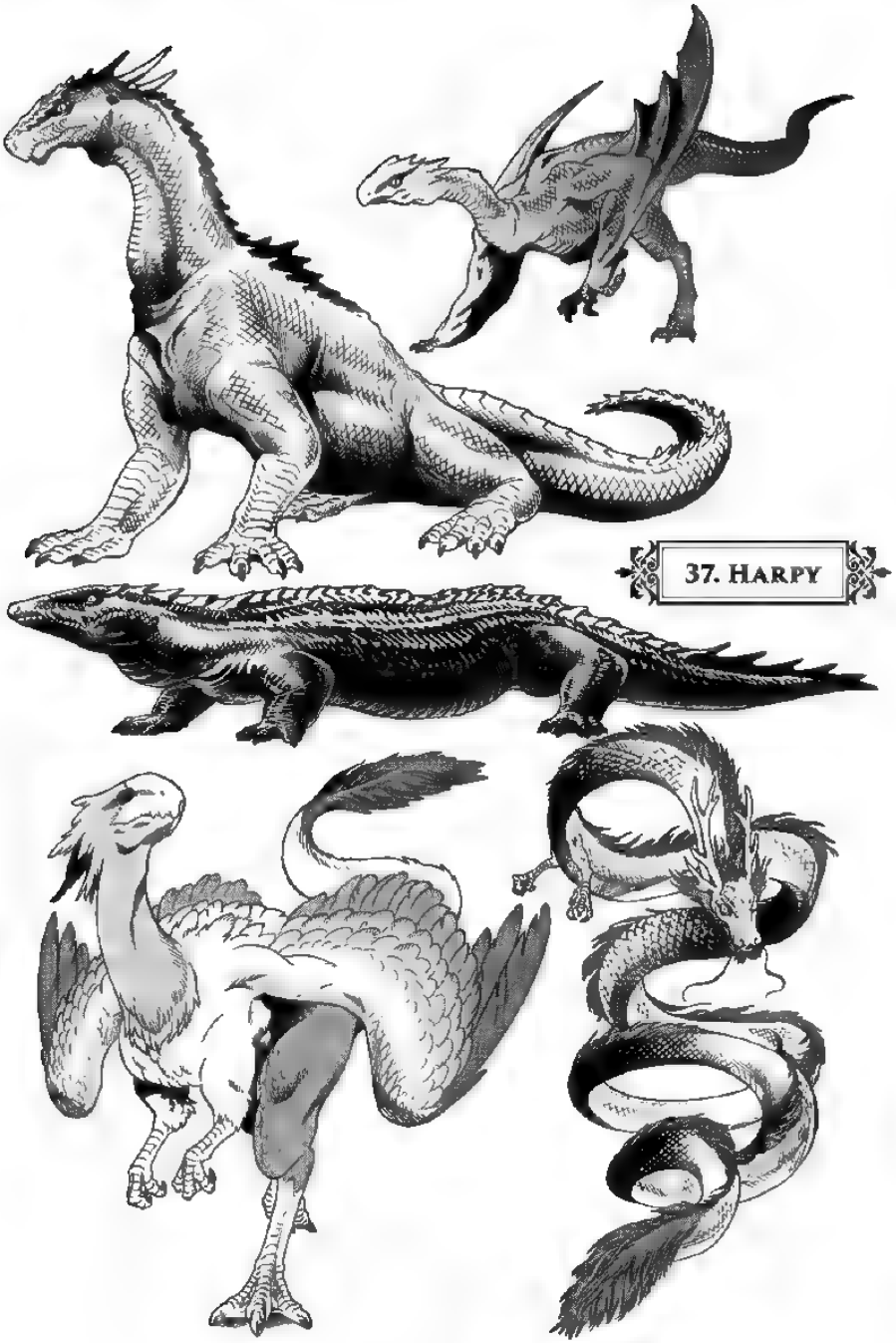



LORD DELGAL...


HAVE TO FIND...
CHAPTER 36: THE END







37. Harpy


WOW... SERIOUSLY.
IT DOESN'T GET MORE ABOMINABLE THAN BLACK MAGIC.
WAS SHE WORTH GOING TO SUCH LENGTHS TO REVIVE?
IT'S NO WONDER YOU'RE ANGRY, SHURO.
USING DUBIOUS METHODS LIKE THAT FOR A RESURRECTION...
IT'S ALL RISK, NO BENEFIT.
FOR HER SAKE TOO, JUST LETTING HER DIE WOULD HAVE—
ENOUGH!!


DEEP DOWN, SHURO, YOU MUST KNOW.
IN THAT SITUATION...
...WOULD YOU HAVE DONE THE SAME THING?
WHEW.
...I'M SORRY.
I SEE... WHAT YOU'RE GETTING AT.
DON'T SAY ANY MORE.
PARA-SOLMD
AT ANY RATE...
LOOK! LOOK! IT'S A MONSTER SWORD!! IT'S REALLY TASTY.
MUKAAA (RAGE)
WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE MEANING...
MORSE THE OLD DRAGON
WE'VE BEEN EATING MONSTERS!
WORKING WITH THE ORCS.
WE USED BLACK MAGIC, BUT YOU'LL KEEP QUIET ABOUT IT FOR US, RIGHT, GHOROF
I KNOW. I KNOW, BUT...
...HIS ATTITUDE IS JUST TOO...
I CAN'T HELP YOU.
...I DON'T UNDER-STAND WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.
I DON'T EVEN WANT TO.


A GROUP OF MONSTERS CHARGED THE COOKING TEAM...
WE'VE GOT TROUBLE.
PATA PATA PATA
PATA PATA PATA
LAIOS! SENSHI!
I TOLD HIM EVERY-THING.
...WHAT DID YOU DO?
ZA (SHUU)
AH!
HE'S OBVIOUSLY THE ABSOLUTE WORST ONE TO TELL!!
I THOUGHT SHURO WOULD UNDER-STAND.
HE REALLY WAS WASN'T HE?
EVERY-THING!!?


I RESPECT HIM.
DON'T LET IT GET TO YOU.
HE'S A LITTLE TIRED TOO.
WAIT, IS THIS MY FAULT? DID I CHOOSE WRONG? HUH??
I'VE LOST COUNT OF HOW MANY TIMES HE'S SAVED ME ON ADVENTURES.
I ONLY KNOW MY HOMELAND AND THIS ISLAND...
...BUT HE TOLD ME ABOUT OTHER COUNTRIES.
SHURO WAS ALWAYS COOL-HEADED AND SMART.
AH HA HA...
I'LL BE SAD IF OUR FRIENDSHIP ENDS LIKE THIS, BUT...
!
.....
IF IT MADE HIM BLOW UP LIKE THAT...
...WHAT I DID MUST HAVE BEEN PRETTY BAD.


AAH HA HA
HUUUUUU
GYA HA HA HA HA
HEEE!
HEE!
HEEEE!
HAR-PIES!!
GAK!
HA HA HA
AH
GYA HA HA
TO (NOD)
THIS IS GOING NO-WHERE.
LET'S GO, YOU THREE.
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM QUICKLY.
KEE HEE HEE HEE
HYA HA HA
AHHH HA! HA! HA!
ARGH...
TAKE THAT !!
TO (WHILE)
SUZUKI- (WHOOP)


SHURO'S FURIOUS.
I BET...
AND NOW THEY LOOK LIKE THAT!?
HUH?
LAIOS TOLD SHURO EVERYTHING.
...?
WHAT DO WE DO? IF THE STORY GETS TO THE SURFACE, WE'LL BE...
I KNOW.
I KNOW, BUT...
IT LOOKS LIKE THE NINJAS ARE DOING JUST FINE.
PIKU
PIKU (TWITCH)
DOSU (WHAM!)


NIKO (SMILE)
...AND THAT CURLY-HAIRED GUY.
FOUR, CURRENTLY.
SHURO, TWO OF HIS ATTENDANT WOMEN...
(WHISPER)
(WHISPER)
FOR NOW, WHO ELSE KNOWS?
NO IDEA.
THE FISH-MEN GOT THEM TOO.
MAYBE HE'S LOOKING FOR WHOEVER IT WAS THAT STOLE THEIR TROPHIES AND FOOD?
...THE GROUP THE TREASURE INSECTS WIPED OUT, RIGHT?
WHY IS HE HERE!?
DOGA (WHIMP)
URK...
HE'S ONE OF THE...
THE BIGGER ISSUE IS THAT BLACK MAGIC.
THERE'S NO PROOF.
JUST LEAVE IT. THEY'LL NEVER KNOW.
YOU'RE GOING TO ADMIT THAT HALF THAT TREASURE WAS REAL, AND WE DID STEAL THEIR FOOD!?
THE TROPHIES WERE TREASURE INSECTS, AND THE FOOD WAS SOAKED AND RUINED, SO WE...
W-WE HAVE TO CLEAR THAT UP!
DON'T, YOU IDIOT!


AND THAT'S "ANCIENT" MAGIC.
THE DUNGEON CLEANERS GOT RID OF THE MAGIC CIRCLE.
IF THEY CHECKED FALIN'S BODY AND MY STAFF VERY CAREFULLY, WE MIGHT BE IN TROUBLE, BUT I THINK THAT'S IT.
I DUNNO ABOUT THE OTHERS, THOUGH.
BY THE WAY...
...HOW MUCH PROOF IS LEFT THAT YOU USED BLACK MAGIC?
SHURO'S MAD, BUT THAT'S NOT A PROBLEM.
WHAT HE'S MAD ABOUT IS THAT WE PUT FALIN IN DANGER.
(DOGA (WHUMP))
DOGA (WHUMP)
WAIT, WAIT! JUST SO YOU KNOW...
THEN BURN THE STAFF RIGHT NOW!
...IF THEY ALREADY SUSPECT US THAT MUCH, IT'LL BE TOO LATE NO MATTER WHAT WE—
HUH...?


WAAH!
LOOK! OVER THERE!!
WHAT'S THAT MONSTER?
A HARPY? NO...


HUH?
...HUH?
WHAT?
IT CAN'T BE.
FAL...
NO WAY.
NO...
WHAT IS THAT!?
NO, NO, NO WAY. WHY?


IT'S INCREDIBLY COOL...




HOLA! RIN!
PREPARE FOR BATTLE!
AH!
R-RIGHT.
DOSH (WHUMP)
WINGS AND FEATHERS AND SCALES?
MAYBE A LITTLE GREEDY, THOUGH.
GIVE AN ORDER!
LAIOS, SHURO, WHAT DO WE DO!?
.....
MAR-CILLE, DON'T.
FALIN!
FALIN! DO YOU REC-OGNIZE ME!?
RGH.
DWEEH?
RESTRAIN HER!
INUTADE! DON'T HURT HER!
AH!


BYUU (FOOM)
YOU MUSTN'T, YOUNG MASTER.
RUN...
UGHK!
GUN (YANK)
ZUN (DRUM)
SFX: KUSHA (SPLUTCH)
KUSHA (PLOP)


URA
AAA!
GRRRA
RA (LEAP)
GUN (SPINNING)


GO (TAUNK)!!!
DOSU (WHUD)
GABURI (CHOMP)
NWAAH !!
CATCH HER, BUT DON'T HURT HER.
PA (CROP)
UMM, CATCH HER.
DOTA
DOTA
CATCH HER.
DOTA (TROMP)


YAAAH!
ギロ
GIRO (GLARES)
LOOK OUT! GET DOWN!
BA (SHOVE)
ヒュー
BYUN (WHOOSH)


GHK...
DO!
(BOOM)
PI
(PLIK)
TOKU
TOKU
(BLUP)
TOKU
PASHA
(SPLASH)
COME ON OUT.
ALL RIGHT ...
UH.
UH-HUH...
CAN YOU DO IT, HOLM?


GUN (YANK)
SO (PAT)
GU (STRAIN)
GUGU
KOPO (GURGLE)
KOPO (BLUP)


GRAIN GRAIN
TCH!
A-ARE YOU CONTROLLING THAT?
PLEASE MAKE IT STOP.
SHE'S JUST CONFUSED, THAT'S ALL.
FALIN!!
U... UNDINE...


THAT ISN'T "HER."
IT'S JUST...
...A MONSTER!
ヒク
HIKU (FLINCH)
ENOUGH.
IF IT'S TO PROTECT SOMEONE PRECIOUS TO YOU...
...YOU DON'T CARE HOW MANY PEOPLE DIE?
ズバッ!
ゴルルル
GARURURU (GRAWRL)
トプン
TOPUN (SPLUNK)


BASHA (SPLASH)
PAN (BANG)
JYU (SIZZLE)
OH, MARILLIER ...
IT CAN USE MAGIC TOO?
ZUH (DRAG)
R R R
R
G R R
SO (DRAG)
G R R
GABU (CHOMP)


DON'T, IDIOT! JUST HIDE!
WAAH! KURO!
ZUN (WHUD)
RIN. GO.
ZA (SLAP)
...FALIN.


OUT OF THE WAY!!
BA (RAISE)
BA!
BA!
BA!


ZUN
GRRRR
DAMMIT, KENSUKE...
IT REALLY IS JUST A MONSTER!
I THINK MAKING A LIFE PRESERVER WITH ITS ORGANS WOULD BE MORE USEFUL.
MONSTERS ARE DANGEROUS.
KATA
CRATTLE!


I'M SORRY, FALIN.
IF I COULD TRADE PLACES WITH YOU, I WOULD.
BIG BROTHER LAIOS.
ガラン (GARAN)
ビク (BIKU)


F-FA (SWAY)
GA (SLASH)
BUSHU (SPURT)
!!
FALIN!!


38. CHIMERA


HEART!
DO (STAB)
LUNG!
KIDNEY!
GOBO (GULP)
GOBO
GOBO
GLU (GRAB)
HFF!
HAFF!


GO (WHUD)
GHAK ...!
GUBIN FLIP!
I'M DEAD—
TIN GUNVA CLINGS


(SHOONK)
GU (TWIST)
I'M SORRY I HESITATED.
CAN YOU STAND!?
WHAT YOU SAID WAS RIGHT.


FOR NOW, WE NEED TO GET AWAY FROM HERE.
MY SISTER'S SOUL IS PROBABLY UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE LORD OF THE DUNGEON.
THAT—
IF WE KILL HER, THOUGH, THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN WILL APPEAR AGAIN.
GAN (CLANG)
UNGH!
ZUZAZA (SKID)


WAIT JUST A...!
BI (TREMBLE)
HAAH
HNOO


KILL COLEANO
MONSTER!
BACH! (KRAK)
THAT SPELL ...!
EVERY-ONE, STAY NEAR ME!
DO (OOOM)


ゴゴゴゴ
BOO-GRUNN
EEEEE!
フラ
FURA (SWAY)


AGH!
DO (LUNGE)
BA (LEAP)
TON (THUMP)
SARI (SCRABBLE)
DAN (WHAM)
ZURU (SLIP)


KARAN
CHAKKO
AND THE DEAD... UM...WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
LET'S GET THE WOUNDED INSIDE THE BARRIER.
SHE MIGHT COME BACK.
AH!
A GNOME FROM A GNOME...
NO, NO. DON'T MOVE THEM.
WE CAN'T WASTE A DROP OF THE BLOOD THEY SHED.
SHOULD WE PUT ALL THE CORPSES TOGETHER?
BORO (GRUMBLE)
I CAN'T MANAGE ALL OF THEM, BUT...
...I'LL REVIVE THEM.


HAAH...
TOKO (TUP)
トコ
トコ
TOKO
MOZO (RUSTLE)
モゾ
NH...
BOKO (BLUP)
ボコ
ボコッ
BOKO
WAIT. IF YOU'RE REVIVING PEOPLE, DO HER FIRST.
KOFF!
ALL RIGHT, NEXT IS...
GABA (BOLT)
ガバ
THE MONSTER!?
SHE RAN AWAY. IT'S OKAY NOW.


I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO HEAL OR RESURRECT.
YOU SEEM TO BE A POWERFUL MAGICIAN, MAIZURU.
...WHY ME?
HER MAKEUP CAME OFF
HE CAN'T TREAT ALL OF THEM, YOU SEE.
I IMAGINE YOU'RE AFTER A DIFFERENT SPELL.
SO NOW I OWE YOU, HM?
YOU TOOK CARE OF US ON THE WAY HERE, SO THIS MUST BE NOTHING.
GU (ZERO)
DON'T.
IF IT'S A SIMPLE RESUR-RECTION, I COULD...
UM...
WE HAVE TO REVIVE THEM BEFORE THE GROUND SOAKS UP THE BLOOD.
WELL, NEVER MIND. LET'S FINISH THIS QUICKLY.


DON'T YOU TOUCH THEM, MARCILLE.
I CAN'T LET YOU USE ANY MORE BLACK MAGIC.
I-I WOULDN'T USE ANYTHING LIKE...
GUN CTUG
THEN WHAT WAS THAT THING!?
WHY WAS SHE LIKE THAT?
IT'S BECAUSE YOU USED DRAGON FLESH AND BLACK MAGIC.
NO...IT CAN'T BE THAT.
THE MAGIC I USED DOESN'T HAVE THAT SORT OF POWER!
O-ONLY...
... THERE'S ONE THING IT COULD BE.
MAYBE THERE WAS A SPELL ON THE RED DRAGON'S SOUL...
...AND FALIN'S AND THE DRAGON'S SOULS MIXED...
...AND THEN THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN TURNED HER INTO...


I'M TURNING HER OVER TO THE WESTERN ELVES.
SHURO ...?
NO...
...AND GIVE HER PEACE, AT LEAST.
I WANT TO FREE HER SOUL FROM THE DUNGEON...
I CAN'T KILL... THAT.
BUT WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE IT ON THE LOOSE.
"AN-OTHER WAY" ...?
THERE MUST BE ANOTHER WAY.
SHURO, DON'T.
CONFESS EVERYTHING TO THE ELVES OF THE WEST.
THE ELVES MUST KNOW HOW TO DO THAT.


TRY RESURRECTING HER WITH ALL SORTS OF MONSTER FLESH...
...UNTIL SHE'S "BACK TO NORMAL" !?
"ANOTHER WAY"!?
WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO?
BA (SHOCK)
WILL YOU GROW UP!?
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING UNTIL NOW?
YOU'VE GOT AN IDEA, DO YOU!?
SO TELL ME!
DON (SHOVE)
GO ON, TELL ME!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?


WE'LL DEFEAT THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN!
SFX: GU (SQUEEZE)
...BUT MARCILLE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO IT!
SO I CAN'T LET YOU TAKE HER.
IN THAT CASE, WE JUST NEED TO DEFEAT THE MAGICIAN AND REWRITE THE ORDER!
I'M... NOT VERY FAMILIAR WITH THAT SORT OF THING...
THAT RED DRAGON WAS CLEARLY FOLLOWING ORDERS OF SOME SORT.
NO ONE BUT THE MAGICIAN WHO CREATED THIS DUNGEON COULD DO A THING LIKE THAT.
AT LEAST TRY TO TAKE THIS SERI-OUSLY, WOULD—?
PASHI (SNAP)
THERE'S A LIMIT TO FOOLISH-NESS.
YOU MEAN TO RESOLVE A PROBLEM THAT BEGAN WITH BLACK MAGIC BY USING MORE BLACK MAGIC?
AH...


PAN
(SMACK)
AH!!
AH...
I'M
SOR—


GO (THWOK)
DOTA (THUMP)
CHIKA (FLICKER) CHIKA
KURA (CREEK)
KURA
THIS, AT LEAST, I CAN SAY WITH CERTAINTY.
BUT.
YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M NOT THAT SKILLED, AND...
...YOU'RE STRONGER THAN MOST ADVENTURERS.


WE, WHO ATE THREE PROPER MEALS A DAY AND GOT OUR SLEEP...
...HAVE BEEN MUCH MORE SERIOUS ABOUT THIS THAN YOU ARE!!
WE ARE ABSOLUTELY GOING TO SAVE FALIN!
LISTEN UP!
WE ARE GOING TO DEFEAT THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN! I SWEAR IT!
HUH? WHAT?
BOSO BOSO CHUTTER
WHAT ABOUT ME IS STRONG?
THEN EAT, BATHE, AND SLEEP!
SHURO, YOU GO BACK TO THE SURFACE.


DOSHA (THUMP)
THIS FIGHT ISN'T OVER YET!
SHUT UP!!!
GA (WHACK)
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK...
...THEN I'VE GOT A FEW THOUGHTS OF MY OWN.
LISTEN UP, LAIOS.
...BEEN ABLE TO STAND YOU.
I HAVE NEVER...
BOGU (WHUNK)
NGUH!
A FEW...
NUH!?
OH, UMM...
WE'RE FRIENDS ALREADY, AREN'T WE?
I'LL COME TOO!!
YOU'RE GOING OUT FOR DINNER?
GO HOME
TELL ME MORE ABOUT OTHER COOL TRICKS!
HEY, C'MON!
ON TOP OF THAT, YOU NEVER MEAN ANY HARM, WHICH MAKES IT EVEN WORSE!
I WOULDN'T
DON'T LIE!
YOU'RE CARELESS AND DENSE, AND YOUR TIMING IS AWFUL.


I COULD KILL YOU NOW AND TAKE MARCILLE WITHOUT A SEC—
THEN SAY THAT SOONER!!
DON (SHOVE)
WHY DID YOU KEEP QUIET ABOUT IT UNTIL NOW!?
ABOUT NOT BEING ABLE TO STAND ME!
ABOUT ME BEING DENSE AND HAVING BAD TIMING!!
AS IF I COULD!!
I WAS ALL EXCITED BECAUSE I'D MADE A FRIEND ON THIS ISLAND FOR THE FIRST TIME.
MOST PEOPLE WOULD HAVE FIGURED IT OUT FROM WHAT I DID SAY!
TRY A LITTLE HARDER TO PICK UP ON THINGS!
I HATE THAT ABOUT YOU TOO.
YOU LOOK HONEST, THEN SHOVE BURDENS ONTO OTHER PEOPLE.
HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO KNOW!?
YOU DON'T TALK, YOU DON'T EAT...
WHY DO YOU EVEN HAVE A MOUTH!?
SHUT UP, YOU FOOL!
YOU HAVEN'T TRIED HALF AS HARD AS MAR-CILLE.


I MUST NOT HAVE RAISED HIM PROPERLY...
I DON'T THINK NOW IS THE TIME FOR THIS...
MORON! IDIOT! DUNCE!
YOUR MOMMY'S AN OUTIE!
WHAT A CHILDISH FIGHT.
SENSHI, WOULD YOU COLLECT THE SCATTERED FOODSTUFFS?
YES'M.
THE GNOME AND I WILL REVIVE THEM, BUT THERE ISN'T ENOUGH BLOOD.
NECK HUMMY
MISSING
SEVEN OF US DIED IN THAT BATTLE, INCLUDING ME.
ONE OF US IS IN CRITICAL CONDITION. THREE ARE MISSING.
SUFFOCATED
CRUSHED
USE ANY DUBIOUS MAGIC, AND I'LL CUT YOU DOWN ON THE SPOT.
TREAT THE WOUNDED AND SEARCH FOR THE MISSING, THEN.
NO THANK YOU.
...UM, IF IT'S A SIMPLE RESURRECTION, I CAN...




SEE THAT, SHURO!?
I KNEW IT! I ATE, SO I'M STRONGER NOW!!
BOGA (SMASH)
FURA
FURA (SWAY)
BATA (PWUMP)
SA (SHIFF)
AHEM!
D... DAMN IT...
MOGU
MOGU (CHEW)
PAKU (CHOMP)
















SNIFF
SNIFF
WAAA


I'M GOING TO REPORT THIS INCIDENT TO THE ISLAND'S LORD.
I SEE.
...I'LL RETURN TO MY COUNTRY.
I EXPECT I'LL NEVER RETURN TO THIS ISLAND.
I DON'T KNOW.
SHE ASKED ME TO LET HER THINK ABOUT IT.
I WAS WAITING FOR HER ANSWER.
YOU PROPOSED. WHAT DID SHE SAY?
I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO TAKE FALIN BACK WITH ME.
I WONDERED WHAT IT WAS, AND IT TURNED OUT TO BE A STRANGELY COLORED CATERPILLAR.
AN ORDINARY WOMAN WOULD PROBABLY HAVE SCOWLED OR SHRIEKED.
ONE DAY WHILE WE WERE CAMPING, I HAPPENED TO WAKE UP.
SHE WAS KEEPING WATCH, AND SHE WAS GAZING AT SOMETHING ON HER FINGERTIP.


I FELL IN LOVE WITH HER PROFILE THEN AND THERE.
HEY, YOU'RE A FEMALE.
HOWEVER, SHE WAS GAZING AT IT, ENTRANCED, AS IF IT WERE A JEWEL.
I WISH I'D TOLD HER SOONER.
I HADN'T ACTUALLY MENTIONED ANY OF THIS TO HER YET.
THAT'S THE SORT OF WORLD HE'S FROM.
HUH?! HE JUST PROPOSED OUT OF NOWHERE?
THAT'S SCARY...
I LOVED HER VOICE, HER IDEAS.
HER SMILE.
THERE ARE NO OTHER WOMEN THAT FASCINATING.
I ENVY IT.
...I SEE.
THAT SIDE OF YOU IS JUST...
NAAH..
THEN I'LL TELL FALIN FOR YOU.


I DIDN'T REALLY DO ANYTHING.
YOU WERE A HUGE HELP.
MY ATTACK WAS POINTLESS TOO.
KABRU.
...EITHER THERE ARE NO VITAL ORGANS THERE...
...OR SHE HAS MULTI-PLES.
...BUT FOR MY SISTER, THEY WEREN'T.
EVERY PLACE YOU STABBED WOULD HAVE BEEN FATAL FOR A HUMAN...
IN OTHER WORDS ...
ALL SORTS OF...?
NO, IT SHOWED ME ALL SORTS OF THINGS!
WASN'T LETHAL, BUT...
HE REALLY DOES LIKE MONSTERS, DOESN'T HE?
SHE DIDN'T EVEN CRINGE WHEN HE THROAT WAS SLIT
IT MADE ER LOSE ONTROL OF HER BODY
SO THIS KNOWLEDGE IS HIS WEAPON, HM?
QUITE A LOT OF MONSTERS HAVE SEVERAL BRAINS.
IT'S COMMON AMONG CHIMERA TYPES.
YOU'RE A GOOD ARTIST!
BASILISKS, CERBERUS, SCYLLA...
...SHE MAY EVEN HAVE ANOTHER AIR INTAKE.
HIS PUPILS ARE DILATED.
SINCE SLITTING HER THROAT DIDN'T INTERFERE WITH HER ABILITY TO BREATHE...


...NO ONE ELSE HAS THE KNOWLEDGE AND MOTIVATIONS HE DOES.
THIS GUY MIGHT ACTUALLY DO IT.
TRUE, THERE ARE MANY ADVENTURERS MORE SKILLED THAN HE IS. HOWEVER...
DEFEAT THE LORD OF THE DUNGEON...
WHAT IF THAT MEANS...
...THE VICTOR BECOMES THE NEXT LORD OF THE DUNGEON?
BUT...
...AFTER HE DEFEATS THE DUNGEON'S LORD, WHAT THEN?
THEY SAY THAT THE ONE WHO VANQUISHES THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN WILL BE GIVEN THE ENTIRE KINGDOM.
WILL HE MEEKLY SEAL THE DUNGEON?
ONCE THIS MAN IS IN POSSESSION OF A CITY, BUILT BY BLACK MAGIC AND ALL ITS MONSTERS...
...WHAT WILL HE DO?


WHEN YOU'RE REVIVED AFTER LOSING THAT MUCH BLOOD, YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE STARVING.
GIVE ME A MINUTE.
HUH?
AREN'T YOU HUNGRY?
DO YOU KNOW HOW TO PREPARE IT?
WANT ME TO TEACH YOU?
WOULD YOU? THANKS.
...THESE?
WHAT?
IT'S NOT READY YET.
NO, I DIDN'T MEAN THAT.
COULD I HAVE ONE OF THOSE THINGS YOU PICKED UP EARLIER?


JUWA
JUUU (SIZZLE)
CHAKA (CLACK)
CHAKA
CHAKA
GAN (WHACK)
GAN
SU (SLICE)
SU
SUUU
KYU (PINCH)
KURU (ROLL)
KURU
ADD MORE...
ROLLED HARPY-EGG OMELET
Ingredients
Harpy egg 1
Oil A little
Seasonings To taste
ENERGY
PROTEIN
FAT
CARBS
CALCIUM
VITAMINS
A ROLLED HARPY-EGG OMELET.
WHAT IS THIS?


...YOU SEEMED INTERESTED IN MONSTER CUISINE.
GO AHEAD— HAVE ONE.
ZUI (COUGH)
SENSHI FOU[illegible] THEM A LITTLE WHILE AGO.
WE WERE GOING TO EAT THEM OUR-SELVES, BUT...
ZOWA (SHUDDER)
GATSU! GATSU! (CHEW)
MOOMOO
GOOOO (BLAZE)
NO, I'LL JUST...
I'LL JUST HAVE TO KILL HIM HERE...
WHAT DO I DO? HOW DO I GET THROUGH THIS?
KILL...
KI...
ABSOLUTELY, I DO NOT WANT TO EAT THAT!!!!


CRASH (GRIP)
I CAN'T MANAGE IT NOW!!
THANK YOU FOR THE FOOD!
BURU
BURU (TREMBLE)
BURU
MOGU
MOGU (CHEW)
MOGU
MOGU
MOGU
MOGU
HE'S A REALLY GOOD GUY...
THE MAN WILL DO ANYTHING TO GET ON SOMEONE'S GOOD SIDE.
THAT'S JUST LIKE HIM.
HURRY UP AND SWALLOW THAT.
CUT IT OUT
YOU DIDN'T DIE—
NOW I FEEL ALIVE AGAIN


NO ONE'S INJURED, CORRECT?
NOOOOO!
ONCE ON THE SURFACE, IF YOU DIE, YOU WON'T RESURRECT.
THE RETURN SPELL IS READY.
KORON (CROW)
...BUT CAN'T RETURN TO THE SURFACE BECAUSE OF THE BLACK MAGIC...
GOSO (GRIMMAGE)
HOWEVER, IF YOU DO MANAGE TO SURVIVE...
...I THINK YOU'LL DIE BEFORE YOU REACH THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN.
TO BE HONEST ...
OF FOOD POISONING, SAY.
DON'T DIE.
THANKS.
.. RING THIS.
ITS DISTANT TWIN WILL RESONATE WITH IT.
I'LL SEND A MESSENGER AND HELP YOU FLEE TO THE EAST.


IT WAS THE MOST BENEFICIAL PART OF ALL THIS.
I'M GLAD I GOT TO TALK WITH YOU.
NO, THAT'S MY LINE.
ギュ
GYU (SQUEEZE)
LAIOS.
OH, GOOD.
HM? OF COURSE.
YOU DO REMEMBER MY NAME, DON'T YOU?
DON'T FORGET IT NEXT TIME, PLEASE.
UM...
HURRY UP.
I'LL SEE YOU LATER.


COME ON, LAIOS.
THERE'S NO GOING BACK NOW.
KURU (CROUL)
"NEXT TIME"?
KUR...
...I'M SORRY.
I HAD A PREMONITION, DAMMIT.
DAMN IT. SEE? I KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN.
THAT'S VULGAR, CHIL.
IT'LL WORK OUT SOMEHOW.





# 39. Shapeshifter -1-




WE COULDN'T FIND STAIRS THAT WENT UP TO SAVE OUR LIVES...
...BUT AS SOON AS WE DECIDE TO GO ON, WE GET THIS.
IT'S STILL WET.
FALIN MUST HAVE JUST COME THROUGH HERE, HEADED DOWN.
I BET THAT WAS A [TIGHT] SQUEEZE
I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF IT.
I DON'T LIKE IT ONE BIT.
HUH?
PYUU CWLOOSHD
WHY DON'T YOU LIKE IT?
WELL, ALL THAT HEAT—
I DON'T LIKE THE SIXTH FLOOR EITHER, SO I DON'T FEEL GREAT.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.


THE SIXTH FLOOR
SUBTERRANEAN CANALS, CONSTRUCTED IN MAKING GALLERIES DUG BY ANCIENT DWARFS.
INDESCRIBABLY VAST AND LONG...
...THEY RUN EVERYWHERE UNDER THE TOWN, LIKE VEINS.
ALL SORTS OF THINGS MUST HAVE TRAVELED THROUGH HERE ONCE.
WATER, NATURALLY HUMANS AND ANIMALS, CONSPIRACIES, LIES, AND RUMORS.
MONEY AND BLOOD...
THE SIXTH FLOOR SHOULD BE HOT AND HUMID.
MAYBE WE CAME OUT SOMEWHERE ELSE?
NO.. I RECOGNIZE THIS ROUTE.
(SHUDDER)
C...!
COLD!!


IT'S NOT WEIRD FOR THE TEMPERATURE TO CHANGE.
WELL, IT IS A DUNGEON WITH SHIFTING WALLS AND PATHS.
THIS IS DEFINITELY THE FLOOR WHERE THE RED DRAGON ATTACKED US...
...AND ALMOST WIPED US OUT.
...BUT THE SNOW AND WATER ERASED THE BLOODSTAINS. THAT'S A PROBLEM.
JYARI (CRUNCH)
COLD IS BETTER THAN HOT...
I HAD TWO, AND THEN FALIN RIPPED ONE UP. THAT HURT.
I DO WANT A CHANGE OF CLOTHES.
YEAH...
FOR NOW, WANT TO GO BACK TO WHERE WE GOT TAKEN OUT BEFORE?
IF THE CLEANERS HAVEN'T EATEN IT, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET OUR STUFF.
THAT WOULD BE GREAT.
ABOUT THAT...
AND?
AFTER BLUFFING LIKE THAT, YOU'VE GOT SOME SORT OF PLAN, RIGHT?
THIS COLD IS PROBABLY TOUGH ON THE RED DRAGON...
OH, IS THAT WHY SHE HAD FEATHERS?
I WONDER IF FALIN'S OKAY.


KUN
KUN
SNIFF
IT'S ALSO WHY HE WAS WANDERING AROUND ON A DIFFERENT FLOOR AND NOT SLEEPING.
THAT'S WHAT THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN ORDERED THE RED DRAGON TO DO.
FALIN WAS LOOKING FOR SOMEONE NAMED DELGAL.
DELGAL, THE LAST KING OF THE GOLDEN CITY THAT FELL A THOUSAND YEARS AGO.
THERE ARE INSCRIPTIONS PRAISING HIM ALL OVER THE DUNGEON.
DELGAL ...
WHO'S THAT AGAIN?
I'VE HEARD THE NAME.
HE WAS A KING.
HE APPEARED ON THE SURFACE WHEN THE DUNGEON WAS DISCOVERED ...
...TURNED TO DUST, AND VANISHED.
WAIT.
BUT DELGAL IS...
RIGHT.
YEAH, THAT'S IT!
THE NAME'S ON EXCAVATED ARTIFACTS SOMET!...


AND SO SHE TOOK US FOR ASSASSINS AND ATTACKED US.
...TO FIND A KING WHO DISAP-PEARED AGES AGO!?
SO... ...THE MAGICIAN'S WORKING THE DRAGON LIKE A DOG AND REMODEL-ING THE DUNGEON ...
EVER SINCE, SHE'S BEEN AFRAID THE SAME THING WOULD HAPPEN TO DELGAL, HIS SON.
THE PREVIOUS KING WAS ASSASS NATED RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN.
ビッ
ボ
ボ
ボ
BYUOOO (WOOO)
NO, A WHILE BACK...
...I ACTUALLY MET THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN INSIDE THE LIVING PAINTINGS.
THAT'S HOW I FOUND OUT!
.....?
WHAT'S THAT? ARE YOU MAKING IT UP?
WHAT!?
SAY THAT SOONER!
LOOK, I DIDN'T REALIZE IT AT THE TIME.
YOU ALWAYS DO THAT!!
REMEMBER? I SAID I TRIED TO EAT THE FOOD IN THERE, AND SHE GOT MAD AT ME.


DO ELVES LIVE A THOUSAND YEARS?
FOR THE RECORD — THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN IS AN ELF, RIGHT?
"JUST," HUH...?
...IT'S NEVER MORE THAN JUST FIVE CENTURIES OR SO.
THERE ARE RECORDS OF LONG-LIVED ELVES IN THE DISTANT PAST, BUT NOW...
I SEE...
RELIVING THE PAST...
IN DAYS OF OLD, MAGICIAN AROUND THE WORLD RESEARCHED ETERNAL LIFE
BUT ONE EVE GOT THE AND THE SPELL WAS DEEMED IMPOSSIB
IMPOS-SIBLE!
PROLONG-ING YOUR LIFE WITH YOUR OWN MAGIC IS LIKE...
...TRYING TO LIVE A LONG TIME BY EATING YOUR OWN FLESH.
WELL, SHE MESSES WITH OTHER PEOPLE'S LIVES AT WILL.
SNIFF!
SHE COULD PROBABLY EXTEND HER OWN BEFORE BREAKFAST.
UH-HUH.
UH-HUH.
IN ANY CASE, IF SHE ATTACKED US BECAUSE SHE THOUGHT WE WERE THE KING'S ENEMIES...
...WE MAY BE ABLE TO CLEAR UP THE MISUNDER-STANDING BY TALKING TO HER.


CAN YOU HEAR ME!?
ARE YOU STAYING CLOSE!?
I CAN'T SEE WHAT'S AHEAD.
THE WIND'S GOTTEN STRONG.
IT'S COLD...
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE ANYONE HERE!
LET'S ALL HOLD HANDS.
WE CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS.
THERE'S A TUNNEL
LET'S SHELTER IN THERE FOR A BIT.


CHIL?
MARCILLE.
HERE.
I'M RIGHT HERE.
OVER HERE.
NO PROB-LEMS.
SENSHI.
YUP.
I'M FINE.
HFF!
HFF!
IT'S PITCH-BLACK.
IS...IS EVERYBODY HERE?
PAA (FLARE)
BO (GLOW)
FOO
PHEW. THAT'S GREAT.
WAIT. WHAT WAS...?
AAH!
MARCILLE, WOULD YOU GET US A LIGHT?
HM?
HWOO...
THIS LOOKS LIKE AN OLD PRISON.
STILL, FOR A WHILE THERE, I WAS...


THERE'S MORE OF US!!
HUH!?
NO WAY !!
WHA—?
THIS IS...
DAMMIT WHAT'S GOING ON?
AN ILLUSION SPELL ...!?
NO...
LIM...


DON'T YOU KNOW ABOUT THEM?
SHAPE ...?
WE GET THEM IN MY HOMETOWN SOMETIMES.
I THINK...
...IT'S PROBABLY SHAPE-SHIFTERS.
IT'S MORE OF A RUMOR OR FAIRY TALE—I'VE NEVER SEEN A REAL ONE.
ARE THEY A TYPE OF FAIRY?
IS IT JUST SOME KIND OF PRANK?
...YOU REALIZE THAT, AT SOME POINT, YOUR COMPANIONS OR LIVESTOCK HAVE MULTIPLIED.
ON DAYS WITH DENSE FOG OR FIERCE BLIZZARDS, WHEN YOU'RE WALKING THROUGH WILD COUNTRY...
YOUR HOMETOWN'S DANGEROUS.
HUH...
THAT'S BECAUSE SHAPE-SHIFTERS HAVE COPIED THEIR SHAPES AND SLIPPED IN.
HURRY, FIND THE FAKES!
WAIT JUST A MINUTE!
YAAH!
IF YOU GO TO SLEEP WITHOUT NOTICING THEM, THEY EAT THE REAL THING AND TAKE ITS PLACE.


...ARE FAKES?
HEY. CAN WE AGREE THAT THE THREE LAIOSES OVER THERE...
THEY DON'T SEEM TO KNOW MUCH ABOUT MONSTERS.
HUH!?
YOU'RE RIGHT.
WELL, THIS ISN'T GOOD.
OH NO OH-NO!!
I HAVE TO EAT IT.
THEY SAY THAT SHAPESHIFTERS READ THE THOUGHTS OF A LIVING THING, THEN PHYSICALLY MIMIC THE PEOPLE CLOSE TO THEM.
THE "ME"S OVER THERE...
...PROBABLY REFLECT THE WAY YOU THREE REMEMBER ME.
WHEN YOU LOOK CLOSE...
TRUE...
...I THINK.
...EACH ONE LOOKS JUST A LITTLE DIFFERENT...


TH-THAT BURNS ME UP...
WHO REMEMBERS ME LIKE THIS!?
KIN
KIN (GURIEKO)
TAKE A GOOD LOOK!
I USE MAGIC! BLACK MAGIC!
YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT TRUE!
TRUE
SHE'S CLEARLY A FAKE!
HUH?
THEN WOULD YOU HURRY AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT GIRL?
MY NECKBAND ISN'T A SCARF.
AND SENSHI'S HELMET IS MISSING ITS HOLE.
THESE TWO ARE DEFINITE FAKES TOO.
USE YOUR EYES!
HUH!?
...HOW DO YOU FIGURE?
FAR TOO VAGUE, NOT ENOUGH DETAIL.
THAT'S GOT TO BE HOW LAIOS REMEMBERS US.
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...


REMAIN-ING FAKES —
SIX.
STILL, IF WE HURT THEM, THEY'RE BOUND TO FIGHT BACK.
I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT UNKNOWN MONSTERS UNDER THESE CIRCUM-STANCES.
IS IT OKAY TO LEAVE THEM LIKE THAT?
THEY DON'T HAVE HUMAN INTELLIGENCE.
I DOUBT THEY KNOW WHAT WE'RE DOING.
シラ
SHIRA
CLARE.
WE'LL UNMASK THE FAKES PEACE-FULLY...
...AND DEAL WITH THEM ALL AT ONCE!!
WELL, HE'S ENERGETIC, BUT...
CAN HE TELL THE REAL ONES FROM THE FAKES?
IT'S DOUBT-FUL...


...EVEN AS WE DO THIS, OUR IMPRECISE MEMORIES ARE BEING CORRECTED.
WE NEED TO SETTLE THIS FAST, OR ELSE.
WHEN YOU'RE SIDE BY SIDE LIKE THIS...
...THERE ARE PLENTY OF DIFFERENCES, BUT...
THIS STYLE IS UNUSUAL. YOU REMEMBER IT, RIGHT?
SEE?
SEE?
I WAS COLD IN THE BLIZZARD, SO I TOOK IT DOWN.
THE TEXTURES ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!
EVEN THOUGH HAIR IS A MAGICIAN'S LIFE...
THE MARCILLES ALL HAVE DIFFERENT HAIR.
I COMPLETELY DON'T REMEMBER WHAT HER HAIR WAS LIKE LAST TIME I SAW HER.
YOU'RE KIDDING!!
OH! I KNOW!
LET'S USE INFORMATION ONLY I KNOW TO DECIDE.
HMM...
WELL, THEY ARE THE MARCILLES IN OUR HEADS.
THEY ALL SOUND ABOUT RIGHT.


OUR GRIMOIRES!
How to cast black magic
* Do dark-looking stuff
* Raise your staff
* Chant
Spell to
DON'T ASK US TO GUESS YOUR MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME.
NOT THAT!
GOSO (RUMMAGE)
NO, NO, THE GRAMMAR OF THOSE CHANTS IS ALL WRONG.
THAT'S MY LINE!
BUT THE OTHER TWO BOTH LOOK LEGITIMATE.
HUH!?
THERE, SEE!?
OHHH!
ONE BOOK IS CLEARLY FAKE.
WELL, OUR POSSESSIONS MAY HELP TO UNMASK US.
SENSHI, SPREAD OUT YOUR INVENTORY.
LIKE WE'D RECOGNIZE CORRECT SPELL GRAMMAR?
GRRR!


HAUL THOSE THREE AWAY!
JAN (TA-DAA)
JAJAN
SIGH...
...NOW WE'RE STUCK.
WE'VE GOT IT DOWN TO TWO EACH, BUT...
THREE.
REMAIN-ING FAKES —


AT A TIME LIKE THIS!?
LET'S EAT.
OKAY.
ALL OF YOU WILL COOK.
I'LL OBSERVE YOU...
...AND TELL THE FAKES FROM THE REAL ONES!
I CAN'T TELL BY SIGHT ANY-MORE.
I'LL HAVE TO DECIDE FROM YOUR BEHAVIOR.
LAIOS DIDN'T REALIZE HE'D RUN INTO THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN ...
...OR NOTICE SHURO'S FEELINGS...
THAT SIDE OF YOU...
...IS JUST...!
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU!!
...OR PICK UP ON WHERE HE'D MET THAT KABRU GUY BEFORE. AND WE'RE COUNTING ON...
.....HIS POWERS OF OBSER-VATION.
I'M WORRIED!!!
CHAPTER 39 THE END

# 40. Shapeshifter -2-




DISCERNING WHICH OF MY COMPANIONS ARE THE MONSTER IMPOSTERS...
IT'S A GOOD CHANCE TO REGAIN THE TRUST I LOST.
I DON'T WANT TO DISAPPOINT THEM ANY MORE THAN I ALREADY HAVE.
I HAVE TO PICK UP ON SUBTLE DIFFERENCES, NO MATTER WHAT.
THIS IS HIM, AFTER ALL.
HE JUST MIGHT.
HE MAY EVEN FIND THE FAKES MORE APPEALING, SINCE THEY'RE MONSTERS.
WE'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS OURSELVES .....!!


....AND THE PROVISIONS MADAME MAIZURU GAVE US.
THERE'S WHAT I FOUND ON THE FIFTH FLOOR...
SINCE WE JUST GOT THE PERFECT INGREDIENTS...
...WE SHOULD MAKE...
I'LL WATCH FROM HERE.
I WANT YOU ALL TO DO YOUR BEST.
JERK.
WHAT SHOULD WE MAKE?
IF YOU WORK TOGETHER, I CAN WATCH FOR BEHAVIORAL DIFFERENCES.
SENSHI CAN TEACH YOU THE RECIPES.
HUH !!?
ONE MORE THING!
I WANT THE DOUBLES TO PAIR UP AND MAKE ONE DISH PER TEAM.
START COOKING !!
ARE YOU ALL READY?
ALL RIGHT.


MIX THE EGGS AND SEASONING.
SLICE MEAT.
FIRST, THE CHIL-CHUCK TEAM.
YOU'RE MAKING THIS HARDER!
WHAT ARE YOU WRITING!?
MEMO. MEMO.
"CHIL B SAT ON CRATE AND STARTED WORKING."
NOTE: "CHIL A IN MIDDLE OF HALL."
HUHN?
LAIOG. OPEN IT.
IT WON'T OPEN.
GWH!
NH...


I'VE GOT CONVICTIONS AND PRIDE AND ALL THAT, YOU KNOW...
NO, COME ON, YOU KNOW THIS.
PEOPLE HELP ONE ANOTHER, CHILCHUCK.
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
DID YOU SEE THAT? B'S THE FAKE!!
HE SLIPPED UP!
HUH?
CHA HAAA!
L-LAIOS...
YOU CAN TELL, RIGHT!?
YCRO STOTTER
OUR CHILCHUCK... IS CUTER.
QUIT!
AREN'T YOU A LITTLE TOO CYNICAL?
ON CLOSER INSPECTION, A HAS MEAN-LOOKING EYES.
HEY.
POLT.
BOSO CMUTTER
NOTE: "INSULTED ME IN COMMON TONGUE..."
KEEP COOKING, PLEASE.
I'LL CONSIDER IT!
HEH HEH..
HE DOES HAVE A RATHER SELF-SEEKING FACE.
CHIL A.
THIS ONE MIGHT BE THE FAKE.


HARPY. WHY?
?
...WHAT KIND OF EGG IS THIS?
IT'S A LITTLE LATE TO ASK, BUT...
IT'S NOT FROM A COCKATRICE, IS IT?
NEXT, THE MARCILLE TEAM.
I'VE STARTED TO COMPROMISE A LITTLE RECENTLY, BUT DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY!!
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN VERY CLEAR!
MONSTERS THAT LOOK HUMAN ARE OFF-LIMITS!
ROUGHLY PEEL A DRYAD, THEN DICE IT.
IN CONTRAST ...
MARCILLE B IS JUST LIKE ALWAYS.
...TO A FAULT.

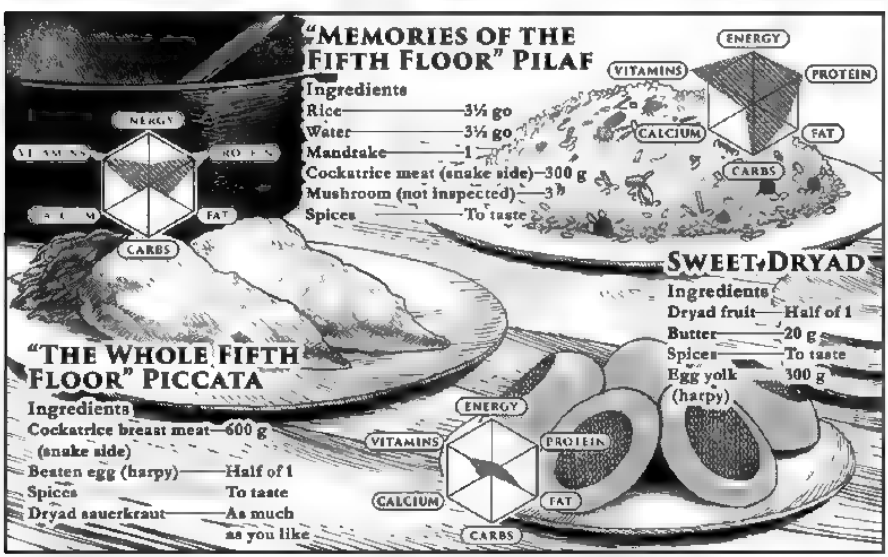

IF IT WILL SAVE FALIN...
...I'LL DO ANYTHING.
...I'VE EATEN FISH-MAN EGGS AND DRYADS.
WHY WOULD I FUSS LIKE THAT NOW?
WHAT DO YOU THINK, MARCILLE A?
BOIL IT.
I DON'T LIKE IT, BUT...
I-I'D DO ANYTHING FOR FALIN TOO, OKAY!?
B'S RESO-LUTION SEEMS PRETTY SHALLOW.
WHOA...
WHAT
EH?
HM? THIS IS TOUGH.
BOTH STANCES SOUND LIKE MARCILLE.
WHEN THEY'RE SOFT ENOUGH TO PIERCE WITH A CHOPSTICK, DRAIN THEM. .
.. MIX WITH SPICES, THEN MASH.
ZABAAA (SPLASH)
WELL, I MEAN, WILL EATING HARPIES MAKE THE SITUATION ANY BETTER!?


PERFECT FOOD!
WHAT WAS IT...?
...ARE A...
RIGHT. AFTER ALL...
...EGGS...
HEH!
THERE WERE NESTS IN A COLLAPSED HOUSE.
I TOOK ALL THAT WERE IN THERE.
CUT INGREDIENTS INTO 1 CM CUBES.
WHERE DID YOU GET THOSE HARPY EGGS?
THE SENSHI TEAM.
IT'S PACKED WITH NUTRIENTS THAT ARE VITAL FOR ADVENTURERS.
WE WERE LUCKY TO GET SOME.
NO... IT WASN'T
RICE WAS SHURO'S FAVORITE FOOD.
SAUTÉ INGREDIENTS AND RICE OVER LOW HEAT, THEN SEASON.
ALL THE DISHES LOOK GOOD.
I WON'T BE ABLE TO DECIDE BASED ON SKILL ALONE.
LIKE FLAVOR AND NUTRITION...
I CAN'T HOLD A CANDLE TO HIM.
I'M JUST INTERESTED IN TASTING MONSTERS, BUT SENSHI'S DIFFERENT.
HE'S FOCUSED ON DEEPER THINGS.


ISN'T SENSHI B...
...KIND OF... DASHING?
UM.
NOBODY'S MENTIONED IT, BUT JUST LET ME CHECK.
HUH!?
SENSHI ALWAYS LOOKS COOL.
LOOKS NORMAL TO ME.
HUH!?
NOTE: "SENSHI IS DASHING."
MEMO, MEMO
SENSHI DOESN'T LOOK THIS DOPEY.
WHAT'S THIS? PREJUDICE AGAINST DWARFS?


THEY ALL LOOK REAL, AND THEY ALL LOOK FAKE.
...I HAVE NO IDEA.
NIKO (SMILE)
FRANK-LY...
THE FOOD'S ALMOST READY.
DO YOU HAVE YOUR ANSWER?

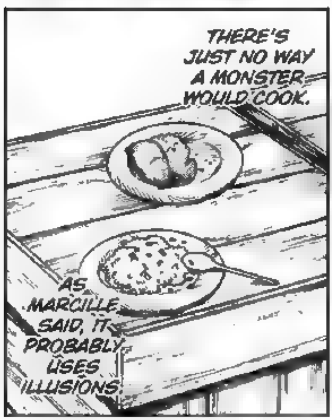

IT'S DONE!
LOOK FOR MON-STERS...
LOOKING FOR MONSTERS DISGUISED AS HUMANS SOUNDS LIKE FUN...
...BUT GOING UP AGAINST ILLUSIONS IS JUST N NOT.....
AND ANYWAY, HAVING TO SPOT ILLUSIONS THAT CAME FROM OUR OWN MINDS...
...IS A TERRIBLY UNFAIR CONTEST.


"MEMORIES OF THE FIFTH FLOOR" PILAF
Ingredients
Rice — 3½ go
Water — 3½ go
Mandrake — 1
Cockatrice meat (snake side) — 300 g
Mushroom (not inspected) — 3
Spices — To taste
ENERGY
VITAMINS
PROTEIN
CALCIUM
FAT
CARBS
SWEET DRYAD
Ingredients
Dryad fruit — Half of 1
Butter — 20 g
Spices — To taste
Egg yolk (harpy) — 300 g
"THE WHOLE FIFTH FLOOR" PICCATA
Ingredients
Cockatrice breast meat (snake side) — 600 g
Beaten egg (harpy) — Half of 1
Spices — To taste
Dryad sauerkraut — As much as you like


THE ONES I THINK ARE REAL ARE...
DOK! (GADUM) DOK!
ALL RIGHT. LISTEN AS YOU EAT.
The self-seeking one with mean eyes.
CHIL-CHUCK A!
The one who won't eat harpy eggs, even if it is for Falin.
MAR-CILLE B!
The dopey one.
SENSHI A!


WAIT JUST ONE MINUTE!
W—
AND SO, IF THE IMPOSTERS WOULD PROMPTLY ENTER THE CELL...
I'LL EXPLAIN LATER.
LET'S DISPOSE OF THE FAKES FIRST.
UM...
...JUST A HUNCH.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, THOSE ARE THE REAL ONES?
THEY'RE OBVIOUSLY THE FAKES!
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT WAY!?
I SUPPOSE...
...WE'LL JUST HAVE TO PROTECT OURSELVES.
"DISPOSE OF"...
I KNEW IT. THIS GUY'S NO GOOD.
J—
"JUST A HUNCH" !?




THERE'S JUST NO WAY A MONSTER WOULD COOK.
AS MARCILLE SAID, IT PROBABLY USES ILLUSIONS.

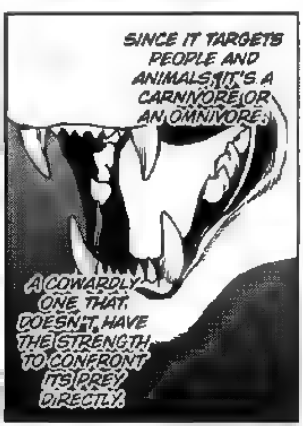

"SHAPE-SHIFTER" IS A GENERAL TERM FOR MONSTERS THAT MIMIC OTHER FORMS.
MONSTERS THAT IMITATE VOICES. MONSTERS THAT POSSESS. MONSTERS THAT CHANGE THEIR PHYSICAL FORMS.
THE TRUE IDENTITY OF THIS THING IS ONE OF THOSE.


NO MATTER WHOM I CHOSE, THIS WAS INEVITABLE.


PERO QUOO


GOOD CHWOOO!
DOWN-WIND IS THAT WAY.


THIS PLACE IS COLD AND DARK, AND VISIBILITY'S BAD.
IT'S AN ANIMAL THAT'S TOUGH AGAINST COLD ONE THAT RELIES ON SMELL AND ITS SENSE OF HEARING.


SINCE IT TARGETS PEOPLE AND ANIMALS, IT'S A CARNIVORE OR AN OMNIVORE.
A COWARDLY ONE THAT DOESN'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO CONFRONT ITS PREY DIRECTLY.


I DOUBT I'LL HIT IT BY SWINGING AROUND A SWORD AT RANDOM.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
THE ENEMY IS WAITING FOR US TO WEAR OURSELVES OUT.
KENSUKE'S REALLY QUIET.
THE COLD MIGHT KILL HIM.
NO. THIS IS SIMPLER THAN THAT.
KACHA (CLINK)
TO FIGHT AN ANIMAL, YOU MUST FIGHT LIKE AN ANIMAL.
I JUST HAVE TO FLIP THE DYNAMIC FROM HUNTER TO HUNTED.
HOW DID PEOPLE ESCAPE IN THE FAIRY TALES?
DID THEY USE GARLIC OR ROWAN?
HAAH...
KOKI
KOKI
OKINO
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, BUT...
...I'LL DO THAT.


ひた
HITA (PAT)
HWOO...


ARF!
!?
BIKUU
GYUNGO
WUFF!
WUFF!
WUFF!


MUIMUI
MOGUTOLIO
NUSSA
FUCCHI
DUCTRAG
BOFF
FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER, I'VE LIVED WITH DOGS.
THEY TAUGHT ME ALL SORTS OF THINGS.
HOW TO HUNT.
HOW TO TACKLE A THREAT THAT'S STRONGER THAN YOUR GROUP.
A-A DOG... NO!!
IS THAT A HUNTING DOG!!?
HE'S GOOD!
...THAT YOU ARE NOT THE HUNTER. YOU ARE THE HUNTED.
RUFF!
SHUBABA
GUBBA (WHIP)
WUFF! WOOF!
WOOF!!
I'LL TEACH YOU...
HE'S A DOG
REALLY GOOD
HE'S GOOD
ZA (SHUFFA)
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA
THE ILLUSION IS...
YOU GUYS! LOOK!
GUNYA (WARP)


GR
RRR...
THERE YOU ARE.
IF YOU'RE A BEAST, THEN YOU KNOW FULL WELL.
IN THIS FIGHT...
GR
R
RR
GR
RA
A
R


...WHOEVER FLINCHES LOSES!
LAIOOOS !!


ドン
DON (BLAM)
バタ
BATA (PLUMP)
ドサ
DOSA (WHUMP)


...WHY DIDN'T YOU DRAW YOUR SWORD?
CHIRI (SIZZLE)
CHIRI
I GOT A LITTLE TOO INTO THE ROLE.
YOU ALIVE, LAIOS?
...AND ARE YOU SANE?
THERE'S A TON OF STUFF I WANT TO SAY, BUT...
YEAH.
CHON (POKE)
FWOO.
.....
NONE OF THE FOOD IS READY.
WELL, IT WAS MADE WITH ILLUSIONS, AFTER ALL.
LET'S MAKE IT AGAIN.
AAAH!
?
THE SENSE OF DISTANCE FROM MONSTERS, MAYBE?
STILL.
TO THINK YOUR EYE TURNED OUT TO BE ACCURATE.
WHAT DID YOU BASE YOUR DECISIONS ON?


THE FACT THAT HE DIDN'T SEEM TO BE AT ALL CONCERNED ABOUT THAT BOTHERED ME!
PLACES LIKE THAT ARE PERFECT HIDEAWAYS FOR MIMICS AND TENTACLES
FIRST, THE FACT CHILCHUCK SAT ON A CRATE.
MIND FROM SOMEONE WHO VALUES BALANCED ECOSYSTEMS, IT SEEMED A BIT THOUGHTLESS.
THE WAY SENSHI SAID HE TOOK ALL THAT WAS THERE."
IT WAS A CARELESS MOVE FOR SOMEONE WHO IS WARY OF UNDINES, BUT SHE DIDN'T GIVE ANY THOUGHT TO IT. THAT CAUGHT MY ATTENTION.
FINALLY, WHEN MARCILLE THREW AWAY THE BOILED WATER
IN THIS CASE, THAT CARELESSNESS SEEMED MORE LIKE THE REAL MARCILLE TO ME.
HUH.


THAT ONE TRICK KEPT IT FED, AFTER ALL.
A FOX...?
STILL, SEEING THROUGH THE ILLUSIONS WAS COMPLETELY IMPOSSIBLE.
WELL DONE. MY OPINION OF YOU HAS RISEN, LAIOS.
ALTHOUGH HIS PERSPECTIVE'S A BIT OFF.
I MEAN, WE'VE NEVER EATEN FISH-MAN EGGS!
RIGHT?
I JUST ASSUMED ...
I'VE EATEN FISH-MAN EGGS AND DRYADS.
...THAT YOU'D NOTICED THAT LINE.
YUM!
AHHH!!!
I WONDER IF IT WAS THAT PORRIDGE ...
GULP
OSHO
ZU


WE HAVEN'T HAD SWEETS IN A WHILE. THEY'RE GOOD.
HAFF...
YAY!
I BAKED DESSERT TOO.
SWEET DRYAD.
YOU'RE SURE YOU DIDN'T MISPLACE IT?
NO, I KNOW IT WAS HERE.
I PUT THE FOOD BAG HERE, AND IT'S GONE.
THERE WERE TEA LEAVES IN THE PROVISIONS WE GOT...
SHOULD I MAKE SOME TEA?
HM?


THAT'S RICE...

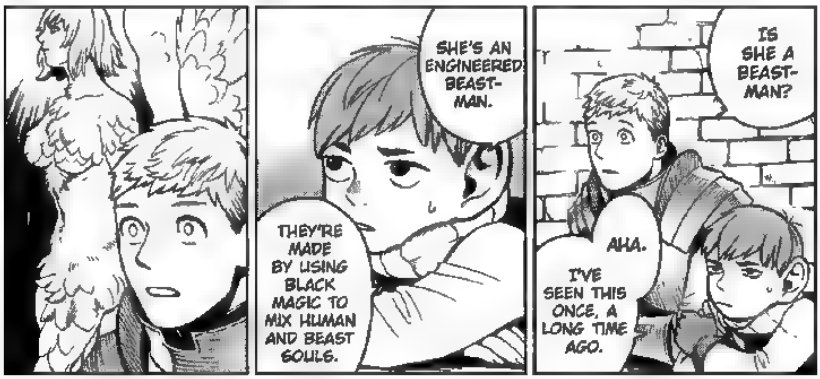

YAGH!
GARAN (CLATTER)
そっ…
SO (SNEAK)
NOBODY'S HERE...
MAR-CILLE!?
DROP YOUR WEAPONS AND FREEZE.
LET'S HAVE A NICE, PEACEFUL CHAT, SHALL WE?
CHAPTER 40 THE END


41. HAG


IF YOU MOVE EVEN A LITTLE, I'LL KILL HER.
TAKE FIVE STEPS BACK, THEN GET DOWN.
NOT THIS AGAIN ...
KARAN (CLANK) カラン
SHE WAS...
...ONE OF SHURO'S HANGERS-ON, WASN'T SHE?
WAS SHE FOLLOWING US ALL THIS TIME?
BRRR


THE SPELL THAT'S ON ME.
HURRY UP!
PUSU (JAB)
GET THIS SPELL OFF.
HUH?
YOU.
GUI (TUG)
ANCIENT MAGIC!!
...AT LEAST TELL ME WHAT IT'S CAST ON...
...AND WHAT KIND OF SPELL IT IS.
CAN'T YOU TELL BY LOOKING!?
YOU'RE A BLACK MAGICIAN, RIGHT?
WHAT SORT OF SPELL ARE YOU UNDER?
WHA...
SHURU (UNWRAP)
AND THE OTHER'S ...
THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF SPELL ON ME.
ONE'S ON MY NECK.
SHURU
OH...!
TCH!


RASA (SHUFF)
...ALL OVER.


THEY'RE MADE BY USING BLACK MAGIC TO MIX HUMAN AND BEAST SOULS.
SHE'S AN ENGINEERED BEAST-MAN.
AHA. I'VE SEEN THIS ONCE, A LONG TIME AGO.
IS SHE A BEAST-MAN?


ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?
IF THE CASTER DOESN'T TOUCH IT WITHIN A SET TIME FRAME, IT ACTIVATES.
WHAT SORT OF SPELL IS IT?
IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S WRITTEN IN THE EASTERN TONGUE.
THE ONE ON YOUR NECK...
A-ALL RIGHT.
I'LL DO WHAT I CAN.
WHO KNOWS?
YOU MIGHT WANT TO HURRY.
YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE WITH ME, DO YOU?
HOW MUCH LEEWAY IS THERE?
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU RUN OUT OF TIME?
YIKES.
IS THE CASTER THAT MAIZURU PERSON?
I THINK I CAN REMOVE IT.
MM-HM.
THE WRITING IS PECULIAR...
...BUT THIS MIGHT BE A REPURPOSED GNOME SPELL.
DON'T TRY ANYTHING FUNNY.
I CAN KILL YOU ANYTIME I WANT.
I KNOW...
ONCE YOU LIFT THIS, I'LL LET YOU GO.


HEY, YOU. BRAT.
GIMME SOMETHING TO EAT.
GORON (ROLL)
ゴロ
GORON
ゴロ
GOGO (RUMMAGE)
ゴソ
GOGO
ゴソ


KUCHA (SMACK)
KUCHA (SMACK)
GATSU (SHARP)
GATSU
HAGU (GULP)
HAGU (CHAMP)
HAGU
FIELD RATION PELLET
HEY, DON'T YOU MOVE!
BA (JANK)
DON'T MESS WITH M—
KOFF!
IF YOU GULP IT DOWN LIKE THAT, IT WILL STICK IN YOUR THROAT.
WHEN DID YOU LAST EAT?
SHUT UP.
SO (SHF)
LET ME MAKE YOU SOMETHING HOT.
I'LL FIX YOU SOMETHING. THAT'S ALL I'LL DO.
YOU NEED TO MOISTEN YOUR THROAT.
KOFF!
KOFF!
KOFF!
OF COURSE YOU CHOKED.
WHAT YOU JUST INHALED WAS BASICALLY A BALL OF FLOUR.
BGH!


HMM...
DRYAD
MANDRAKES
COCKATRICE
HARPY
...ALL RIGHT.
TRY TO FEED ME MONSTERS, AND I KILL YOU.
CHOP THE MUSH-ROOMS INTO BITE-SIZE PIECES.
PROBABLY IMAGINING IT.
TON (CHOP)
TON
EEEEEK!
IT'S BEGINNING TO GROW FOOTLIKE THINGS?
THE MUSHROOMS I PICKED NEAR THE DRYADS WERE...
HM?
HMM.
SALITE RICE, BUTTER, AND GARLIC.
WHEN YOU CAN'T SEE THE FIRE, IT JUST DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT.
I CAN'T FEEL ANY HEAT. IS IT STILL USABLE?
FIRE...
MAYBE I'LL USE THE MAGIC CIRCLE MARCILLE MADE FOR THE COOKING EARLIER.


FUTSU
FUTSU (BUBBLE)
NO VEGE-TABLES, AND I CAN'T USE MEAT OR EGGS.
ADD WATER AND SIMMER FOR A WHILE.
IT'S GOING TO BE VERY PLAIN...
MUSH-ROOMS.
SEA-SONING.
I'LL ADD SOME CHEESE, AT LEAST.
WHAT A WASTE.
IF I CAN'T MAKE ANYTHING BETTER THAN THIS, I'M INCOMPETENT. PITIFUL.
EITHER WAY, I CAN'T STAND SEEING YOUNG PEOPLE GO HUNGRY.
HMM?
RISOTTO WITH MUSHROOMS PICKED IN A GRAVEYARD AND CHEESE FROM THE ORCS
IT'S DONE!
Ingredients
Rice——80 g
Mushrooms (not identified)—3
Water——Enough to cover
Cheese——As much as you like
Seasonings—To taste
ENERGY
PROTEIN
FAT
CARBS
CALCIUM
VITAMINS


GOKUR (GLUP)
DOWNWIND
ふわ
FUWA (WAFT)
WHO'D EAT STUFF LIKE...?
I'LL JUST SET IT HERE.
KOTO (CLUNK)
SUN (SNIFF)
SUN
HMPH.
GASHI (GRAB)
NAME (GLUP)
なめ
NAME
BEERO
BERO
BERORI (LICK)
KUCHA
KUCHA (SMACK) KUCHA


...HAS TERRIBLE TABLE MANNERS !!
GIMME MORE!
THIS KID...
SHE JUST WASN'T RAISED RIGHT.
YOU'RE NOT USED TO STUFF LIKE THAT?
WHAT GREAT POSTURE.
KUCHA KUCHA
IS EASTERN ETIQUETTE THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF OURS?
NO. WE NEVER SAW SHURO EAT LIKE THAT.
SU (SWIP)
SU SU
JI (STARE)
TORORI (GLOOP)
SUUU (SLOW)


AH
POTORI (DROP)
A PICKY EATER!
THIS... HASN'T HAPPENED BEFORE.
SEN-SHI...
I HATE MUSH-ROOMS.
PECHA (SMACK) PECHA
WHAT DID YOU JUST...?
HEY. COME ANY CLOSER, AND I MURDER YOU.
MUHN ?
HOLD YOUR SPOON PROPER-LY.
PIKU (PERK)
YOUR SPOON.


...AND PICK UP WHAT YOU JUST THREW ON THE FLOOR.
HOLD YOUR SPOON PROPERLY...
AH!!
WHAT THE HELL...?
BA (LUNGE)
W-WAIT JUST A—
ZOWA (RUSTLE)
NO, DON'T!
WHILE I'M UNDOING THE SPELL IS DANGERO—
ZO
ZO
ZO (ZET)




BUSH (SWIPE)
GOSH
GOSH
GOSH
GOSH


GUH (YANK)
GU (GRABS)
SPOONS ARE HELD LIKE THIS.
SENSHI! BEHIND YOU! BEHIND YOU!
HOW-EVER...
I BET IT IS.
BEING FORCED TO HOLD IT IN AN UNFAMILAR WAY MUST BE A NUISANCE.
SHA (HISSS)
I CAN HOLD IT ANY WAY I WANT!
THIS WAY'S EASIEST FOR ME!


KA
KA
KA
AH!
HUH?
SENSHI, BE CARE-FUL!
...IT'S MADE OF PAPER!?
OI
THAT FELT LIKE NOTHING.
GAAN (CLANG)
KEH
KEH
KEH
KA
KA
KA
KA
KA
KA!


IT'S BLADE IS LONG AND SHARP. IT LOOKS TERRIFYING, BUT IT'S THIN AND DELICATE.
IT'S USED TO CUT MEAT.
THAT'S A CARVING KNIFE.
GU (POINT)
...LOOK.
IF YOU BRANDISH IT WITH A GRIP LIKE THAT, WHAT DO YOU THINK HAPPENS?
-GAN (CLANG)
SEN-SHII
BASHI (SMACK)




DON (BAM)
...YOU WON'T BR.NG OUT THE TOOL'S FULL ABILITIES, AND YOU MAY PUT YOURSELF AT A DISADVANTAGE!
AS YOU CAN SEE...
DON (BAM)
GYAGIGAGAG (GGRAAAAPE)


BOBOBO (BLAZE)
JIJI (SIZZLE)
GAGLIN (WHIMP)
SENSHI!
NOW, LAIOS!
GYAAAAAAH!



I APOLOGIZE FOR STARTLING YOU.

BUT...

ARE YOU HURT, CAT-GIRL?

...WHY ARE THERE GOOD AND BAD WAYS TO HOLD TOOLS?

I WANT YOU TO THINK ABOUT THAT.

THE FOOD'S GONE COLD.

LET'S GET IT WARMED UP AGAIN.

PON (THUD)

THINK ABOUT NOT MOVING WHILE SPELLS ARE BEING UNDONE TOO.

IF THAT ONE HAD BEEN NASTIER, WHO KNOWS WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED?


...WHY DID YOU FOLLOW US?
FUTSU
FUTSU (BUBBLE)
SO...
NOT UNTIL I RAN INTO...
...I COULDN'T FIND ANYBODY WHO USED IT.
I KNEW THEY WERE BLACK MAGIC, BUT...
I'VE BEEN HUNTING FOR A WAY TO BREAK MY CURSES FOR AGES.
PERO (LICK)
MY RESEARCH INVOLVES DRAWING ENERGY FROM OTHER DIMENSIONS...
THERE ARE SEVERAL KINDS OF BLA— ANCIENT MAGIC.
I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT!
AFTER ALL...
DON'T GIVE ME THAT!
...THAT LONG-EARS OVER THERE.


...YOU ACTUALLY DID IT.
YOU MADE A GROTESQUE FROM A HUMAN AND A MONSTER WITH BLACK MAGIC.
AND!
YOU PEOPLE ARE GOING THROUGH THE DUNGEON TO BREAK THE CURSE ON THAT LADY, RIGHT?
IN OTHER WORDS...
...YOU KNOW HOW YOU'RE GOING TO DO IT, RIGHT!?
THAT MEANS YOU CAN BREAK MINE TOO!!
C'MON, EVICT THIS BEAST SOUL THAT POSSESSED ME!!


HUH?
I'M SORRY.
THAT'S...
...NOT SOMETHING I CAN DO ANYTHING ABOUT.
A SPELL IN THIS DUNGEON CREATES A THICK MEMBRANE INSIDE THE SHELL...
...SO EVEN IF THE BODY IS DAMAGED, THE SOUL WON'T LEAVE.
IT'S USUALLY INSIDE THE "SHELL" OF A BODY, BUT...
...WHEN THE BODY BREAKS, IT COMES OUT, AND IT NEVER GOES BACK TO NORMAL.
THERE'S STILL A LOT WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE SOUL, BUT...
...THEY OFTEN SAY IT'S LIKE AN EGG.
ONCE MIXED TOGETHER...
...SOULS NEVER GO BACK TO THE WAY THEY WERE.
RIGHT NOW, YOU AND FALIN...
...HAVE TWO SETS OF "CONTENTS" IN ONE SHELL.


...UH...
HUH?
THEN...
...WHY ARE YOU...
...STILL TRAVELING?
I KNEW THAT, BUT HEARING IT SAID FLAT-OUT IS...
ALSO, IF WE GO BACK UP NOW, THEY'LL ARREST US FOR USING BLACK MAGIC.
SHURO WILL PROBABLY REPORT THIS TO THE LORD OF THE ISLAND.
ALTHOUGH, I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'LL SAY.
SHE MIGHT KILL THE NEXT ADVENTURERS SHE MEETS...
...OR THEY MIGHT KILL HER.
WE WANT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS BEFORE THEN.
...UMM...
FOR ONE THING, WE CAN'T LEAVE MY LITTLE SISTER LIKE THAT.
.....
NO...
THEN I'LL...
... ALWAYS BE...

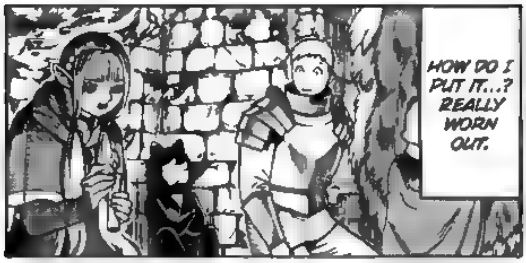

...I'M REALLY GLAD I MET YOU!
IT'S WEIRD FOR ME TO SAY THIS, BUT...
EVEN SO!
BUT ...!!
...BUT WHAT YOU DO AND SAY LOOKS PERFECTLY HUMAN...
...AND YOU HAVE NO DRIVE TO KILL!
...I DON'T KNOW WHAT MONSTER YOU'RE MIXED WITH...
I MEAN ...
IT MAKES ME REALLY HAPPY.
JUST HAVING LEARNED THAT IS, UM...
...IF SHE'S FREED FROM THE DUNGEON'S CONTROL...
...MAY REGAIN HER OLD PERSONALITY...
IF YOU TURN THAT AROUND, EVEN FALIN...

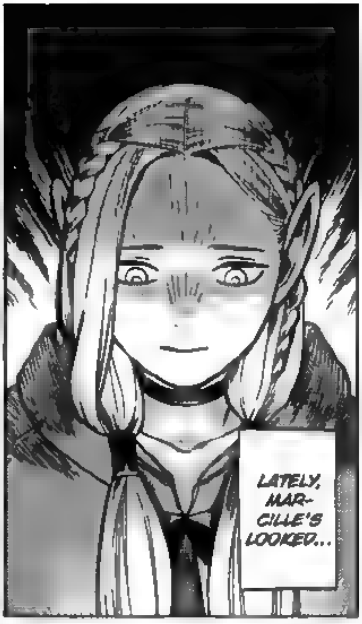

...BUT WHY NOT THINK OF THIS POSITIVELY, AS THE HAND OF FATE AT WORK?
IT MAY NOT BE QUITE WHAT YOU HOPED FOR...
HERE.
...WE MAY LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT SEPARATING SOULS.
IF WE ASK...
THE LORD OF THE DUNGEON IS FAR BETTER WITH ANCIENT MAGIC THAN I AM.
THEN...?
THAT'S JUST WHAT I GO BY.
FWOO!
HWOO!
IZU-TSUMI.
WHAT DID YOU SAY YOUR NAME WAS? ASEBI?
EITHER WAY, YOU CAN'T GET BACK TO THE SURFACE ON YOUR OWN, RIGHT?
...WHAT?
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE RECRUIT-ING ME.
MY NAME'S IZUTSUMI.
DON'T FORGET IT.

42. NIGHTMARE


LAIOS.
HFF...
HFF...
COME BACK TO THE VILLAGE!
BUT FALIN'S STILL...
GIVE US A GRAND-CHILD SOON.
I DIDN'T LET YOU LEAVE SO YOU COULD SLAY DRAGONS.
IT'S TIME YOU SHAPED UP AND LIVED PROPERLY.
FATHER.
HOW LONG DO YOU INTEND TO LIVE LIKE THIS?
NIYA GSHRRK
NIYA
YOU RAN FROM BOTH SCHOOL AND THE ARMY YOU COULDN'T FIT IN.
DO YOU THINK SOMEONE LIKE YOU CAN SUCCEED OUT THERE?
FORGET ABOUT HER.

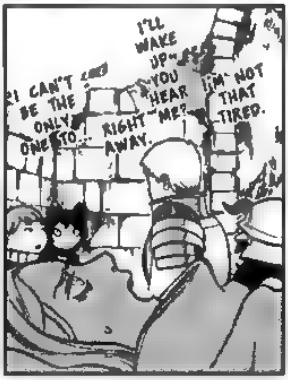

YOU DON'T HAVE AN EYE FOR PEOPLE, SEE.
YOUR FRIENDS WILL TRICK YOU AND TAKE ALL THE CREDIT AGAIN, JUST LIKE BEFORE.
REMEMBER WHEN YOU WERE A GOLD-PEELER?
YOU'VE GOT NO TALENT FOR EXPLORING THE DUNGEON EITHER.
DROP IT ALREADY !!
WE ALREADY TALKED THAT OUT!!
IT WAS THE SAME WITH ME.
YOU THOUGHT I WAS YOUR GOOD FRIEND...
...BUT I NEVER LIKED YOU MUCH—
I'M PRETTY SURE I WAS...
WHAT WAS I DOING AGAIN?
AND WHERE IS "HERE" ...?
I HAVEN'T SEEN THEM IN OVER A DECADE.
WHY ARE MY PARENTS HERE?
NO...
HANG ON.


HOW DO I PUT IT...? REALLY WORN OUT.


LATELY, MARCILLE'S LOOKED...


MARCILLE, WE'LL HANDLE THE GUARD SHIFTS TONIGHT. YOU REST.
HUH? WHY?
IT'S FINE. I DON'T NEED TO.




I'LL WAKE UP RIGHT AWAY.
YOU HEAR ME?
I'M NOT THAT TIRED.
I CAN'T BE THE ONLY ONE TO...


COME ON, COME ON.
COME ON, NONE OF THAT.
EXCUSE ME? SERIOUSLY, WHAT!?


WHAT'S THE MATTER? MARCILLE!
THIS IS SERIOUS.


A MONSTER?
UH-HUH.


BUT BEFORE LONG, HER PEACEFUL BREATHING BECAME DISTURBED GROANS.
NH?
NH...
HFF! HAFF!


NIGHT-MARES.
MONSTERS THAT POSSESS HUMANS WHILE THEY SLEEP, GIVE THEM BAD DREAMS, AND FEED ON THEIR EMOTIONS.
IF YOU STAY TRAPPED IN A NIGHTMARE, YOU'LL GROW WEAK AND DIE.


LET'S TRY THAT METHOD.


SHIRO GOT POSSESSED ONCE. HOW DID WE...?
FALIN WENT INTO HIS DREAM AND SAVED HIM.


IF YOU'RE EMOTIONALLY DRAINED, IT'S HARD FOR YOU TO GET OUT OF THE NIGHTMARE.
UH.


WAKE UP, MARCILLE.
PECHI
OSMAKO PECHI
DON'T.
IF YOU WAKE HER BY FORCE, YOU'LL HURT HER SPIRIT.






USE THE DREAMER AS A PILLOW, AND...


YOU'RE GOING INTO HER DREAM?
WON'T THAT JUST MAKE IT ANOTHER NIGHT-MARE?
SOMEBODY HAS TO MAKE HER SEE THAT IT'S A DREAM.

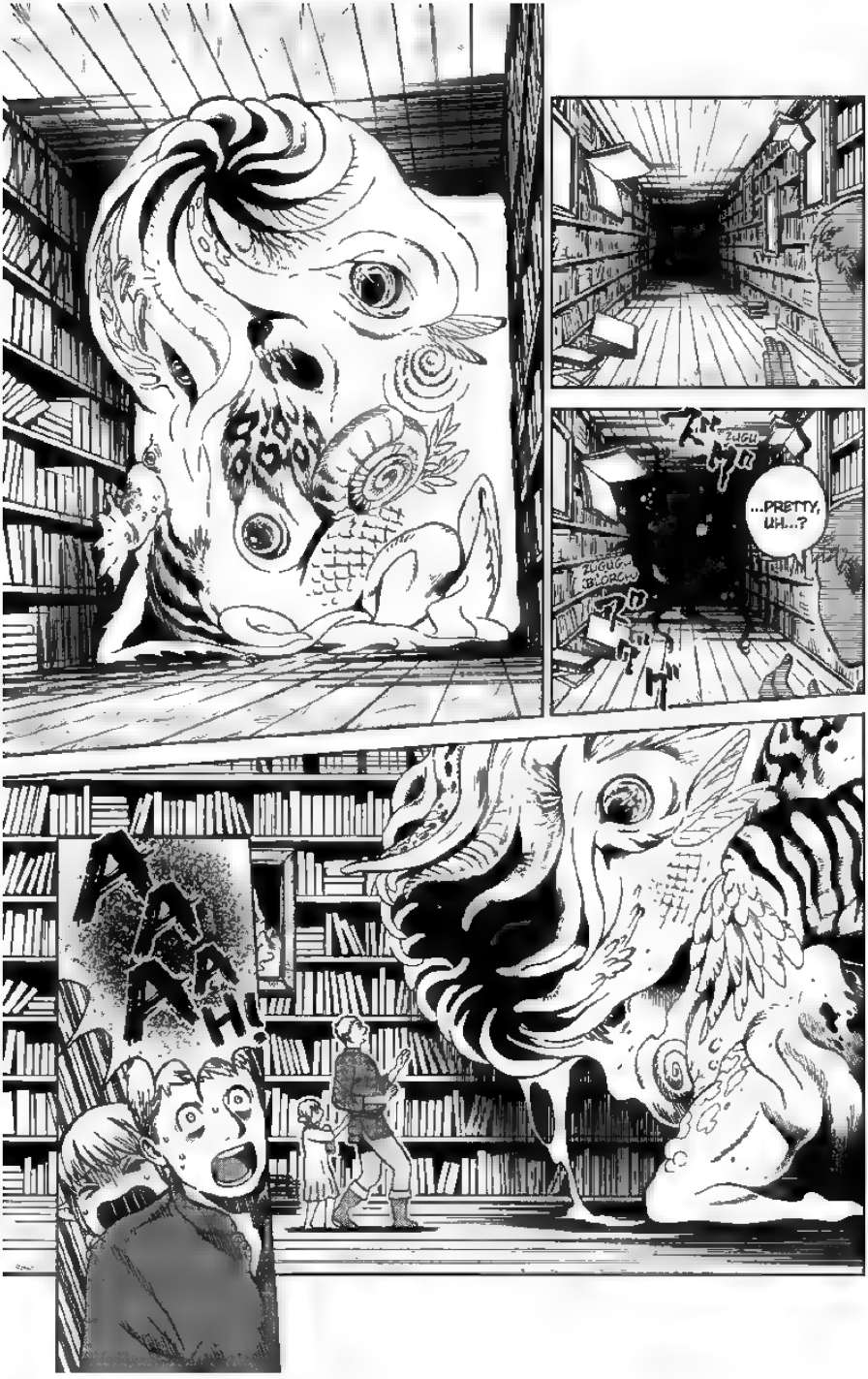

THEY REALLY KNOW WHAT PEOPLE HATE.
IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS!
DAMMIT.
THE NIGHTMARE TOOK A BITE OUT OF ME.
I'M IN MY OWN DREAM!
THAT'S RIGHT! I WAS TRYING TO HELP MARCILLE ...
ヒュウ
(HYUUUU)
(SWOOSH)
COME FORTH, MY STRONGEST SERVANT!
NOW I KNOW IT'S A DREAM, THOUGH, IT'S ALL MINE.
ZUN (WHUDD)


OKAY, HOW DO I GET INTO MARCILLE'S DREAM?
THIS IS WHY I DON'T LIKE THE SIXTH FLOOR.
IT'S BASICALLY ALL MENTAL ATTACKS.
HWOO...
MIGHA (GLRSH)
BARI (TAP)
BARI
GUNI (STRETCH)
SHE'S UNDER MY HEAD RIGHT NOW.
THAT MEANS...
...I JUST HAVE TO DIG DOWN.
THOUGH IT ONLY WORKS IN YOUR OWN.
THIS IS WHAT'S GREAT ABOUT DREAMS.


THAT WAS CLOSE.
IT...IT DOESN'T HURT.
THE FALL ALMOST WOKE ME UP.
BESHAN (SPLAT)
BOGO (CRUNCH)
WHOA!!
IS SOMEBODY THERE?
SO THIS IS MARCILLE'S DREAM...
IT'S KIND OF AMAZING.


MA... MARCILLE?
BKU (PLINCH)
YOU'RE LITTLE!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
KYORO (PEEK)
キョロ
.....
WH-WHO ARE YOU?
IT'S NOT SAFE HERE. RUN AWAY, HURRY.
AND WE'RE IN YOUR DREAM.
IT'S ME! LAIOS!
A TREMOR ...?
KATA
カタ
OH...
KATA (RATTLE)
SO WAKE UP RIGHT NOW, AND...
WHAT'S "IT"?
NEVER MIND, JUST COME ON!
IT'S COMING!!
W-WE HAVE TO RUN.


I'M PRETTY SURE FALIN SAID...
A DREAM ABOUT BEING CHASED, HUH?
THOSE ARE COMMON, BUT THEY'RE NASTY.
PAPA AND PIPI...
IT SWALLOWED PAPA AND PIPI.
?
PAPA
PIPI
MAMA
MARCILLE
HUH...
A DREAM..
THAT MEANS YOU JUST HAVE TO PROTECT THE WOUND.
IT'S DANGEROUS, SO DON'T TRY IT, ALL RIGHT?
TRAUMA OR STRESSFUL THINGS.
THEY STIMULATE THOSE MEMORIES AND CAUSE BAD DREAMS.
NIGHTMARES LOVE EMOTIONAL WOUNDS.
I MAY NOT LOOK LIKE IT, BUT I'M...
THAT'S DANGER-OUS!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING !?
IT'S FINE.
OKAY, I GOT IT!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT FOR YOU!
BA CTUPAD


ZUGU
...PRETTY, UH...?
ZUGUG... BLORGW
AAAAH!


IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S BEEN EMBELLISHED A LOT...
SO THAT'S MARCILLE'S FEAR?
WHAT IS THAT THING?
HOW SHOULD I KNOW!?
IF SHE KNEW THIS WAS A DREAM, IT WOULDN'T BE A THREAT, BUT...
SHE'S RIGHT... I DON'T THINK I CAN DEFEAT THAT.
HFF...
HFF...
HFF...
NOWHERE IS SAFE.
NOBODY CAN FIGHT IT.
GATA (SHAKE)
GATA
IF WE'RE THIS FAR AWAY...
GYUU (SQUEEZE)
LET'S THINK OF A WAY TO BEAT IT TOGETHER.
IT'LL BE OKAY!
BIKU (FLINCH)
SO (PAT)


IT HAS COUNTLESS TENTACLES AND A HEARTY APPETITE... AND IT LOOKS DISGUSTING... MAYBE IT'S AN INSECT.
IT MOVES AT A SLOW CRAWL.
WELL, MONSTERS, I GUESS.
SOMETHING THAT SCARES MARCILLE, HM?
OH, I GET IT!!
BUG... BUG... BUG...
THERE AREN'T MANY BUGS THAT BIG, THOUGH.
IT'S GREEDY, SO IT'LL EAT ANYTHING THAT'S ALIVE!!
IT'S WEAK AGAINST FIRE AND LIGHT!
IT'S A WURM! THE DRAGON SPECIES!
ITS EGGS AND EYES HAVE ATROPHIED, SO IT'S LIKE A HUGE CATERPILLAR.
IT'S A WURM !!!
BIKU!
ヒ!
THAT'S A PRETTY CLASSY CHOICE!
IT MAKES ME KINDA HAPPY.
AH... AH...




POTARI (PAT)
NO!
HOLD ON TO ME!
HUH?
WHEN DID IT...?


DID IT TOUCH YOU JUST NOW!?
IT ONLY GRAZED ME.
LET ME SEE.
ZURURU (OOZE)
RUN FOR IT! RUUUN !!
AGH!
BA (JERK)
BOTO (PLOP)
WHAT IS THIS ...?
BOTO
AH!
UH-OH. I SCARED HER MORE.
THE NIGHT-MARE'S GETTING STRON-GER.
GORI
GORI (CRUNCH)
GARI (SKRAPE)
GORI


WHAT VICIOUS POISON!
ZO (CHILLS)
WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DIE IN SOMEONE ELSE'S DREAM?
HM...
MAGIC ...
JIWA (TEARY)
IT'S OKAY! YOU HAVE MAGIC POWERS!
YOU CAN DEFEAT THAT THING ON YOUR OWN.
ENCOUR-AGE MAR-CILLE!
NIKO (SMILE)
NO.
DON'T BE UNEASY OR SCARED. THAT'S WHAT IT WANTS.
BIKU (FLINCH)
BARA (SCATTER)
ZUUUN (DOOM)
GARA (CLATTER)
BARA-


...SHE GOT TURNED INTO THIS.
WHEN I TRIED TO DEFEAT IT WITH MAGIC...
"SHE"?
DID I SAY SOME-THING WRONG?
IT DESTA-BILIZED MORE.
WHEN...
I SEE!
AHA...
MARCILLE FEELS BAD THAT HER RESURRECTION SPELL TURNED FALIN INTO THAT THING.
IF SHE TRIED TO DEFEAT IT, THAT MEANS...
IS THAT FALIN!?
WAIT, IS...
MAR-CILLE!
I-IT'S HERE AGAIN...
SFX. Gu (SQUEEZE)
YOU CAN'T JUST RUN.
HUH?
YOU HAVE TO CONFRONT IT.
... MARCILLE'S AFRAID OF DEATH!


DWAAH!!?
BESIDES, YOU'RE USED TO SEEING CORPSES, RIGHT!?
IT'S FINE. YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF, MARCILLE!
HUH? HUH? WHAT!?
HERE IN THE DUNGEON, EVEN IF YOU DIE, YOU CAN COME BACK TO LIFE.
EVEN FALIN'S STILL ALIVE, THANKS TO YOUR RESURRECTION SPELL.
GOOOOO, GMOOOSH!
IT'S ONLY PULLING ME!?
IT!
N-NO!
IT'S SUCKING ME IN!
WAIT...
HUH!?


GRAB MY HAND!
HFF! HFF!
W-WAIT A MINUTE, MARCILLE.
I CAN'T BREATHE...
IT'S NOT POISON!
I'M AGING AT AN INCRED-IBLE RATE.
BA DASH
THIS WAY!
MAYBE IT'S NOT A LIVING THING AT ALL...?
IS THERE ANY LIVING CREATURE THAT CAN DO THINGS LIKE THIS?
HFF...
HFF...
SOMETHING'S WEIRD HERE.
ONCE I REST A LITTLE, I'LL BE ABLE TO RUN AGAIN, SO...
NO, I...
LIAR!
SO YOU WON'T COME WITH ME EITHER?
HAFF... HAFF...


AND FALIN!
EVERY-BODY!
AND SO I STUDIED LOTS AND LOTS OF MAGIC, BUT...
EVERYONE GIVES UP ON RUNNING WITH ME, AND THEN IT SWALLOWS THEM!
PAPA TOO!
AND PIPI!
MAR-CILLE...
DID YOUR FATHER DIE YOUNG?
BUT IF IT TURNED FALIN INTO THIS, THEN...
...I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO...
BY THE WAY, WAS PIPI A RELATIVE ...?
PIPI'S A BIRD.
...SO I'M GOING TO HAVE TO WATCH LOTS OF PEOPLE GO AWAY.
...THAT I RUN FASTER THAN EVERYONE ELSE...
SNIFF!
AT PAPA'S FUNERAL, MAMA TOLD ME...


SHE'S WORRIED THAT THE PEOPLE SHE'S CLOSE TO WILL DIE BEFORE SHE DOES.
I SEE...
A BIRD, HM?
MARCILLE ISN'T AFRAID OF DEATH.
ZUIRI
ZUIRI
ZUIRI (CREEP)
BUT WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO!?
I CAN'T DO ANY-THING!!
THE MORE FRIGHTENED YOU ARE, THE STRONGER IT GETS.
CALM DOWN.
MAR-CILLE.
GAKU (QUAKE)
AHH...
GAKU
MAR-CILLE!
ZUIRI
ZUIRI


I MEAN, LOOK AT ALL THESE BOOKS!
THERE WAS NOTHING IN MY DREAM.
BKL CLINGG
BECAUSE YOU'RE AMAZING, MARCILLE!!
NO, YOU CAN!!
YOU CAN DO IT, MARCILLE!
DON'T GET DISCOURAGED. BE CONFIDENT!
YOU'VE WORKED HARD FOR SUCH A LONG TIME!
IF I HAD THE BOOK SHE HAS...
...I COULD USE MAGIC MORE PERFECTLY, BUT...
THEN WISH FOR THAT!
GU GU
NO... GET UP!
LET'S RUN AWAY.
MY MAGIC ISN'T COMPLETE ANYWAY.
GU


DON'T GIVE UP...
I KNOW YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO IT THIS TIME!
DON'T BE AFRAID.
IF YOU WISH HARD, YOU CAN DO ANY-THING!
AAAAH!
ZUBO (POP)
ズボ
NO!
NO, NO, NO, NO...!


JIRORI (GLARE)
パチ
PACHI (BLINK)
GOOOOOOO!
THAT'S IT, MARCILLE!


!AA
WA
GO
CHUUUNGO
IS THAT HOW YOU USE IT!?
IT HURTS


BORI BORI
OH-HO.
GAKUN CLUNCH
YOU'RE AWAKE?
YOU WERE BOTH HAVING NIGHT-MARES.
ARE YOU OKAY?
BIKU CLUNCH
NNGH...
OH!
.....
FWAA...
I THINK I DREAMED ABOUT SOMETHING TIRING.
...I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER.
NN...
BORI BORI
WAAH!
SHE'S GOING BACK TO SLEEP!!
ZZZ...
MAR-CILLE, NO!! WAKE UP!!


DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?
IT LOOKS LIKE IT WORKED.
LET ME SEE YOUR PILLOW FOR A SECOND.
A DREAM ...?
I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER.
I THINK I DREAMED ABOUT SOMETHING FUN, THOUGH...
WHAT ARE THOSE?
THEY'RE NIGHT-MARES.
ZARAA (SHUFFLE)
BLEH!
(CRIED)
THEY MUST HAVE BEEN IN YOUR PILLOW FOR QUITE A WHILE.
WE SHOULD CHECK EVERYONE ELSE'S PILLOWS TOO.
YOU'RE KIDDING...
ZOWA (SHUDDER)
GARA (RATTLE)
STILL, THERE'S A TON OF THEM.
THEY LURK IN PEOPLE'S PILLOWS AND GIVE THEM BAD DREAMS.


SENSHI, ARE THESE EDIBLE?
I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED WHAT THEY'D TASTE LIKE.
YES, OF COURSE
SHOULD I GRAB MY CHANCE AND BAIL...?
NIGHTMARES ARE ALSO CALLED "SHENS." THEY'RE ACTUALLY RELATED TO DRAGONS.
IF YOU LOOK CLOSELY, THEY'RE SORT OF DRAGON-ISH.
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?
WHOA!
HERO (LOW)
FIRST, MAKE THEM SPIT UP ANY GUNK...
...BY SOAKING THEM IN HOT WATER FOR A WHILE...
COVER.
PAKLIN CTUNK
ADD WINE.
CHO (CRISP)
CHO
SET THE NIGHT-MARES ON SOME MELTED BUTTER.


FINISH WITH A TOUCH OF SOY SAUCE, AND...
JWA
SIZZLE
PAKA (POP)
PAFUA (PUFF)
... THEY'RE DO—
FUWAA (WAFT)
OH-HO?
I THINK I REMEMBER NOW.
THAT'S RIGHT. I WAS RUNNING FROM SOMETHING, AND THEN...
OH! THAT'S ME.
YOU'RE LITTLE!
THE DREAM THE SHENS ATE TURNED INTO A MIRAGE.
WHAT'S THIS?
GA (CRUMPLE)
YURA




CHAPTER 42:
THE END

# Translation Notes

**Page 12**
Hien, Benichidori, and Maizuru are all bird-related names: *Hien* means "flying swallow," *benichidori* is "crimson plover," and *maizuru* is "dancing crane." *Asebi* is the Japanese name for *Pieris japonica*, or Japanese andromeda, a poisonous shrub with clusters of delicate, white, bell-shaped flowers.

**Page 13**
Starting during the Edo period (1603 to 1868) and all the way up into the early twentieth century, it was extremely common to prefix women's names with an *O*. Although the *O* is technically an honorific (similar to *-san*), it was generally added just to make the name sound nicer/cuter and was more of a nickname than anything.

**Page 28**
Previously, Kabru has exclusively used the more macho pronoun *ore* even with older people outside his group, but he's intentionally switched to using the humbler *boku* when he talks to people in Shuro's and Laios's groups. The switch itself isn't that unusual, but it does make him seem shiftier and more manipulative in this context.

**Page 46**
Like Asebi, Inutade shares her name with a plant, *Persicaria longiseta*, or tufted knotweed. It's an annual herb that has elongated clusters of pink flowers.

**Page 70**
According to the theory of the alchemist Paracelsus, gnomes are elemental spirits that inhabit the earth, so the "easiet" employed by Holm is the spirit type of "gnome."

**Page 126**
A *go* is an old Japanese unit of measurement. When applied to liquids, it's equal to about 180 ml. One *go* of uncooked rice was considered to be the amount needed for an average meal.

**Page 133**
According to superstition in Japan, because dogs aren't fooled by illusions, foxes are notoriously afraid of them. However, since Laios didn't know exactly what the shapeshifter was when he decided to go canine on it, he probably just got lucky here.

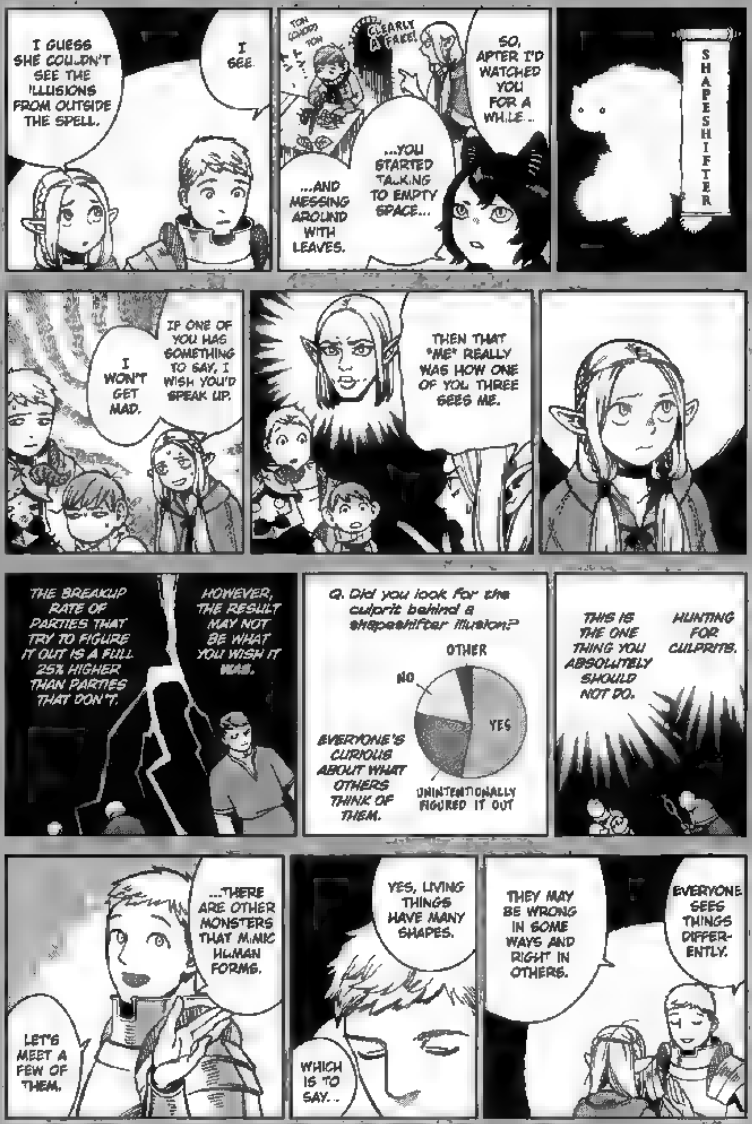
**Page 202**
The saying Laios is quoting is a proverb that means "It's simple courtesy to clean up after yourself."

**Page 203**
The final phrase on this page is a dialect phrase from the Tohoku region given as a standard ending for folktales; it's apparently a corrupted pronunciation of the word *tattokare* (meaning "valuable" or "appreciated"), but it's just used to mean "that's the end." It's also used to "force" a conclusion to stories that end in a scattered or unsatisfactory way.

*To be continued...*


THEY'RE NOISY AND MESSY...
...AND THEY POOP EVERY-WHERE!
THEY TEND TO HORN IN ON OTHER CREATURES' MEALS.
OVIPAROUS (LAYS EGGS)
PLUMAGE
NOT TEETH
DON'T PRODUCE MILK
HARPIES' FACES ONLY LOOK HUMAN. THEY'RE FULLY AVIAN.
SAFE!
HARPY
MISC. MONSTER TALES
6
GATE! (SCARE!)
GATE!!
THEN THEY EAT THE FOOD THAT WAS LEFT BEHIND.
LIKE A BOILED-DOWN CESSPIT.
APTER ALL, HARPY FECES ABSO-LUTELY REEK!!
OR TAKING A MOP TO A ROTTING CORPSE.
AFTER THEY ARRIVE, MOST ANIMALS ABANDON THEIR MEALS AND LEAVE.
HARPIES HAVE A BALD PATCH ON THEIR CHESTS.
THEY USE IT TO HOLD THEIR EGGS AND CHICKS!!
...AND WHILE THEY RAISE THEIR YOUNG, THEY BARELY EAT OR DRINK AT ALL.
BLRGH
BLAARH
...THEN VOMIT UP WHAT THEY ATE FOR THEIR CHICKS.
ONCE THEIR BELLIES ARE FULL...
...THEY RETURN TO THEIR NEST...
BOKO
BOKO
BOKO
BOKO
"BIRDS DON'T FOUL THE NESTS THEY LEAVE" IS A VERY APT PROVERB.
THE PARENT EATS THE CHICKS' FECES TOO, SO THE NEST STAYS SURPRISINGLY CLEAN.
...BUT I WISH THEY'D NOTICE THE DEEP AFFECTION HARPIES HAVE FOR THEIR YOUNG.
PEOPLE OFTEN SAY THEY'RE UNPLEAS-ANT BIRDS...


THEN THE BABYSITTER DOLL WOULD APPEAR AND RETURN THE YOUNG MASTER TO THE HOUSE.
WHEN HE LEFT MY SIDE FOR A SET TIME, IT WOULD ACTIVATE.
HMM
AS A COUNTER-MEASURE, I CREATED THIS SPELL.
NINJA ART: BABYSITTER
A MOMENT'S CARELESS-NESS ON MY PART, AND HE WOULD VANISH.
HERE, THE SOUL AGAIN...
LONG AGO, THE YOUNG MASTER WAS A TERRIBLY ACTIVE CHILD.
HAG
I WAS IN THE BATHROOM, DOING MY BUSINESS, WHEN...
RRGH...
TWENTY YEARS AGO
THE BOY'S IN THE FIREPIT.
I RAN AROUND FRANTICALLY, USING NINJA TECHNIQUES I'D JUST LEARNED
WHEN I FINALLY SCUTTLED TO MY FATHER'S SIDE IN A PANIC...
MY FATHER TOASTED MOCHI OVER THE FIRE...
THEN POLISHED IT OFF.
SO THAT WAS HER DOING...
EVEN THEN, WHEN I LOST SIGHT OF HIM, MY HEART WOULD FREEZE.
I USED AN IMPROVED VERSION OF THAT SPELL ON AOBI.
BUT LOOK HOW SPLENDID HE'S BECOME.
MAIZURU TRULY COULDN'T BE HAPPIER.
...AND THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO THIS TALE.


I GUESS SHE COULDN'T SEE THE ILLUSIONS FROM OUTSIDE THE SPELL.
I SEE.
TON TON
CLEARLY A FAKE!
SO, AFTER I'D WATCHED YOU FOR A WHILE...
...AND MESSING AROUND WITH LEAVES.
...YOU STARTED TALKING TO EMPTY SPACE...
SHAPESHIFTER
I WON'T GET MAD.
IF ONE OF YOU HAS SOMETHING TO SAY, I WISH YOU'D SPEAK UP.
THEN THAT "ME" REALLY WAS HOW ONE OF YOU THREE SEES ME.
THE BREAKUP RATE OF PARTIES THAT TRY TO FIGURE IT OUT IS A FULL 25% HIGHER THAN PARTIES THAT DON'T.
HOWEVER, THE RESULT MAY NOT BE WHAT YOU WISH IT WAS.
Q. Did you look for the culprit behind a shapeshifter illusion?
OTHER
NO
YES
EVERYONE'S CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT OTHERS THINK OF THEM.
UNINTENTIONALLY FIGURED IT OUT
THIS IS THE ONE THING YOU ABSOLUTELY SHOULD NOT DO.
HUNTING FOR CULPRITS.
LET'S MEET A FEW OF THEM.
...THERE ARE OTHER MONSTERS THAT MIMIC HUMAN FORMS.
WHICH IS TO SAY...
YES, LIVING THINGS HAVE MANY SHAPES.
THEY MAY BE WRONG IN SOME WAYS AND RIGHT IN OTHERS.
EVERYONE SEES THINGS DIFFERENTLY.


THEN I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO TELL THEM APART BY POKING THEIR EYES.
IF THAT'S TRUE... IF ONE TURNED INTO YOU, I'M NOT CONFIDENT I COULD TELL.
PUNI (POKED)
HAHA HAHA
STAY CALM
THEY ALMOST NEVER IMITATE HUMANS, BUT THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTED CASES.
HOWEVER, THEY AREN'T INTELLIGENT, AND THEIR MOVEMENTS ARE UNNATURAL, SO THEY'RE PROBABLY EASY TO SPOT.
A TYPE OF SLIME THAT MIMICS CREATURES EXACTLY, THEN MINGLES WITH GROUPS.
FIRST, THE CLASSIC!
I'D SEE A YOUNG WOMAN, OBVIOUSLY.
WHAT AM I, AN INFANT!?
CHILDREN LIKE CHIL[redacted] SEE THEIR PARENTS.
I SEE.
THEY GENERALLY RELY ON SEX APPEAL...
...BUT SOME HAVE REPORTED SEEING THEM AS DISTANT RELATIVES OR DEVOTEES.
...THEN BECOMES THEIR IDEAL BEING AND TEMPTS THEM.
NEXT, LIKE OUR SHIFTER, THIS ONE READS HUMAN MINDS...
THAT'S UNFORGIVABLE
COME TO THINK OF IT, SOMEBODY MADE A LAIOS THAT LOOKED JUST LIKE FALIN!!
THEY LOOK NOTHING ALIKE.
AND WHEN THEY LET THEIR GUARD DOWN, THE MONSTER SWITCHES WITH THEM.
THEY USE HONEYED WORDS AND ILLUSIONS TO ATTRACT THE INTEREST OF THEIR PREY...
MIRROR MONSTERS.
THEY IMITATE THE FORM REFLECTED IN THEM.
THAT EXCHANGE SORT OF SAYS IT ALL...
I DON'T FEEL SO GREAT
SO HE SAYS, BUT...
DRAT
YAWN
...SO IT'S BEST NOT TO WORRY ABOUT IT!
...GOING ROUND AND ROUND WITH ACCUSATIONS [redacted] RIGHT [redacted] HANDS...
ANYWAY...
SERIOUSLY, IT'S A MYSTERY.
I'D LOVE TO HEAR WHY!?
THEY DON'T LOOK REMOTELY LIKE EACH OTHER.
PEOPLE SAY THAT SOMETIMES, AND I REALLY DON'T GET IT.


THEY SAY THEIR FACES ARE TWISTED IN TERROR...
THE BIGGER THE SHEN GETS, THE MORE EXTREME THE BAD DREAMS.
IN THE END, THEIR HOST FALLS INTO AN ETERNAL SLEEP.
A SHEN LURKS IN PEOPLE'S PILLOWS, GIVES THEM DREAMS...
...AND FEEDS ON THE EMOTIONS (SPIRITUAL ENERGY) THAT THE DREAMS GENERATE.
SHEN
~NIGHTMARE~
HE SLEPT ON A PILLOW WITH NIGHTMARES AND KEPT A JOURNAL ABOUT THE DREAMS HE HAD.
NEIRO HOTOMER B. 578- D. 504
SOMEONE ALREADY CHECKED INTO THAT.
I'D HAVE ALL THE FUN DREAMS THEY WANTED.
IF THEY JUST NEED TO STIR UP EMOTIONS, THERE ARE OTHER WAYS.
WHY BAD DREAMS?
TRA LA LAAAA...
JINGLE DINGLE INGLE INGLE..
TWEEDLE OODLE...
TRA LAAAAA...
AT FIRST, HE LOOKED FORWARD TO FINDING OUT WHAT SORT OF DREAM HE'D HAVE NEXT BUT..
HE SAID THERE WAS A SURPRISING VARIETY.
SOMETIMES HE LAUGHED, SOMETIMES STARTLED, SOMETIMES GREW MELANCHOLY...
NO WAY. I DON'T REMEMBER THIS AT ALL.
THIS IS ONE OF MARCILLE'S DREAMS, RIGHT?
HAHA! IT'S AN OLD DREAM!
WHAT'S THIS?
SOMETHING'S STARTING.
...IN THE TWILIGHT
...IN THE SILHOUETTE OF THE FLOWERS THAT BLOOOOM...


EPISODE 2
AH HA HA.
EEEE!
WHAT THE HECK?
EPISODE 1
LLLH..
THIS IS LAME.
TRA LAAAA...
THE TRIBE OF PELKIAN
Episode 1
A Fated Meeting
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
FINAL EPISODE
I'M REALLY REALLY GLAD...
OH. I'M GLAD...
EPISODE 8
WHOA...
YES! YES!
THAT'S IT! GET 'EM!
EPISODE 6
NO WAY!
HEY, WHOA.
THAT'S AWFUL.
SEASON 3, EPISODE 7
THE GUY WHO KEPT THE NIGHTMARE JOURNAL
HUH?
SO BY THE WAY, WHAT HAPPENED?
SEASON 2, EPISODE 10
THE CAST HAS GROWN, AND HE'S GOTTEN RATHER LOST.
THEY'RE BREAKING UP AGAIN?
SEASON 2, EPISODE 1
WHAT WERE ALL THOSE TEARS FOR?
WHAT? THERE'S MORE!?
"SEEKING FURTHER STIMULATION, IT MUST BE THAT THE HUMAN HEART..."
"...COMPELS THE NIGHTMARES TO CREATE BAD DREAMS."
"ON HIS SICKBED, HE CLOSED BY SAYING, "ONE TIRES OF HAPPINESS QUICKLY, BUT TRAGEDY IS BOTTOMLESS.
THE PERCENTAGE OF BAD DREAMS, GRADUALLY INCREASED...
...AND HIS SPIRIT FINALLY BROKE.
OH. RIGHT.

# 6

# DELICIOUS IN DUNGEON

## RYOKO KUI

**Translation: Taylor Engel** **Lettering: Abigail Blackman**

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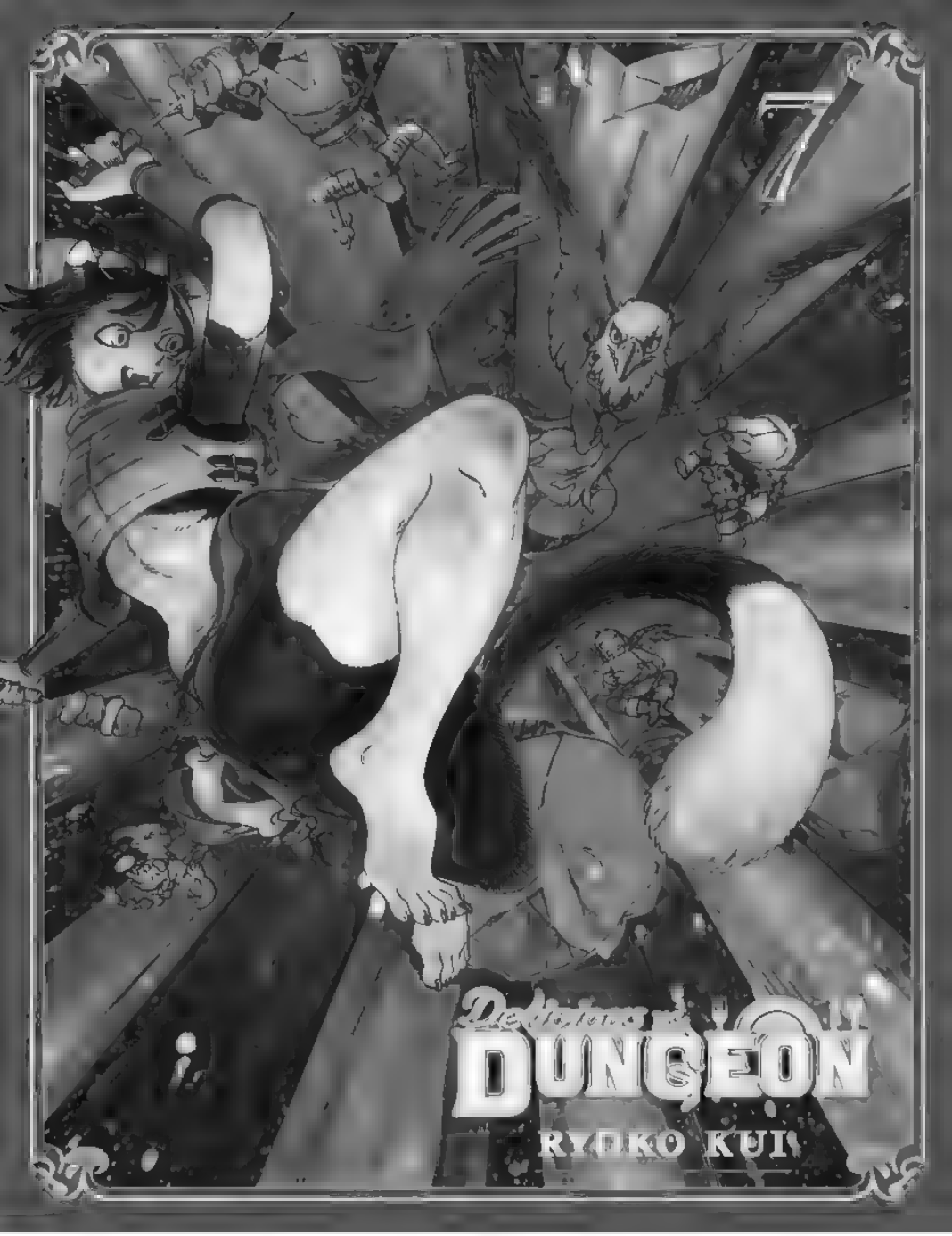
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RYOKO KUI

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DUNGEON
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# Delicious in Dungeon



Ryoko Kui

7

# Delicious in Dungeon

7

*Contents*

*Chapter 43* **ICE GOLEM** — 005
*Chapter 44* **BAROMETZ** — 031
*Chapter 45* **EGG** — 059
*Chapter 46* **THE GOLDEN COUNTRY** — 087
*Chapter 47* **GRIFFIN** — 121
*Chapter 48* **FAMILIARS** — 143
*Chapter 49* **GRIFFIN SOUP** — 175
*Bonus* **MISCELLANEOUS MONSTER TALES -7-** — 212





# 43. Ice Golem


ギュう
GYUU
(SQUEEZE)
ギュう
GYUU
ギュう
GYUU
HEY!!
LOOK OU—
THEY'RE STUCK UP AHEAD...
GAN (CLANG)
DON'T PUSH. DON'T PUSH!
MOVE IT, SLOW-POKE!
I TOLD YOU, THIS IS IT.
REALLY ...?
...WAS THE WAY ALWAYS LIKE THIS?
DOGA (OPAL LAMP)


FOR A LONG TIME, THIS WAS THOUGHT TO BE THE DEEPEST PART...
YES.
ボスン
BOSUN (SHLIMP)
YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE ON YOUR LAST EXPEDITION?
THIS HALL! THIS IS IT!
WHERE WE FIRST FOUGHT THE RED DRAGON!
THERE'S A DESIGN ENGRAVED ON IT, AND THEY SUSPECT IT MOVES BY MAGIC.
...BUT RECENTLY THEY FOUND A DOOR NEAR HERE THAT SEEMS TO LEAD FARTHER IN.
YOU MET THE RED DRAGON AND RETREATED.
WE CAME TO GET A COPY OF THE DESIGN FOR THE LORD, BUT THEN...
FOUND OUR STUFF!
I'M PRETTY SURE WE WERE OVER THERE...
OKAY. LET'S TRY OUR LUCK.


OH, GOOD. MY UNDER-WEAR'S SAFE TOO.
YESSS! FOUND MY SLEEPING BAG!
THAT'S WHAT YOU LOOK FOR BEFORE MONEY AND VALU-ABLES?
NO...!
IT'S BEEN RAN-SACKED.
THAT'S NOT GOOD.
WHY DON'T WE FIND A PLACE TO REST FOR A BIT?
I'D LIKE TO GET MY GEAR IN ORDER.
EE...
EE...
NOW WE'LL BE WARM WHEN WE SLEE...
EHCHOO!
EHCHOO!
AH CHOO!
THE FOOD'S ALL GONE...
...BUT THE REST HASN'T BEEN TOUCHED.
GUESS MON-STERS DID THIS.
WHEW.


HEY. NONE OF THAT.
TAKE OUT WHAT YOU JUST PUT IN YOUR SHIRT.
GOSO (SHLIFF
SOMETHING NIBBLED ON MY SOAP!
I WONDER IF THE SNOW SLOWS THE CLEANERS DOWN.
TALK ABOUT A BADLY TRAINED BEAST-MAN.
NO WONDER THEY PUT THAT COLLAR ON YOU.
DON'T BRING COINS INTO THE DUNGEON.
HERE, MAR-CILLE.
SUCH A WEIRD RACE NAME...
THEY SAY YOU'RE CALLED THAT BECAUSE A LOT OF YOU GOT A FOOT CHOPPED OFF FOR THIEVING.
...SO I DIDN'T KNOW UNTIL I CAME HERE.
THERE AREN'T ANY LIKE YOU IN THE EAST...
.....
YOU'RE A HALF-FOOT, RIGHT?
COME ON, YOU TWO, STOP IT.


MARCILLE. COME HERE.
OH, OF COURSE. DO YOU WANT TO DO IT, LAIOS?
I'LL TEACH YOU HOW TO DRAW A MAGIC CIRCLE.
HM. IF I USE A MAGIC CIRCLE, MAYBE...
IS THERE A SPELL THAT COULD CUT OUT JUST THIS PART?
I'D LIKE TO FIX IT FOR THE CAT
OH! A FISH!
THE SHARP TEMPERATURE CHANGE MUST HAVE ICED IT IN.
I DON'T GET DIZZY MUCH ANYMORE.
HOW IS YOUR MANA SICKNESS LATELY?
THE HALLUCINATIONS ARE A BIT WORSE, THOUGH.


DID THE WATER FLOW DOWN FROM THE UPPER FLOORS AND FREEZE?
I OFTEN CAUGHT THOSE FISH ON THE FOURTH FLOOR.
IT LOOKS LIKE ALL SORTS OF THINGS GET WASHED DOWN HERE.
I'LL ACTIVATE IT, THEN.
VISUALIZE WATER FILLING THE SYMBOLS YOU CARVED, AND...
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
A LITTLE TIRED...
AND NOW THE CIRCLE'S COMPLETE.
TON (THUMP)
KA (FLASH)
JJ (FIZZ)


DWAAH!?
(WHOOM)
GO
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
THE GROUND IS...
ZUN
(THWOOM)
WHOA!


I SEE.
AN ICE GOLEM ...!?
A...A MONSTER!?
AAAA


WHA...?
PAKIN (SNAP)
DO (THUD)
GHK!
LAIOS!
GUINA (LOOM)


BA (LEAP)
TON (TMP)
SUTON (SHUP)
AGHI
ZUGAGAGA (SCRUNCH)
WITH GOLEMS, YOU HAVE TO BREAK THEIR CORE!
CORE
HOW DO I KILL THIS THING?
HM?
BUFUU (SHHH)


BLOW (FOOM)
CORE?
WHERE'S THAT?
THE CORE... NO, THAT'S A FISH.
THERE'S TOO MUCH STUFF IN THERE.
WHERE'S THE CORE!?
STEP IT UP!
HANG ON A SEC-OND!
HEY!
TRA (TRAK)
TRA
THAT JERK'S JUST MAKING STUFF UP.
HE'D BETTER NOT BE TRYING TO SABOTAGE ME.
HUH!?
I CAN'T TELL WHERE THE CORE IS!
HEY! HOLD THE ENEMY'S ATTEN-TION AND BUY ME SOME TIME!


BI (RIP)
NGH!
BATSUN (SMACK)
TO (TMP)
GURUN (TWIST)
ZUBO (SHUMPP)
BA (FWIP)
ZUN (WHUD)
THE SNOW IS...


BIG OPOOMO
SHIN (SILENCE)
DOSA
DOSA
DOSA (RUN JUMP)
KYORO (GLANCE)


IT STOPPED MOVING!
MOZO (SQUIRM)
BWAH!
TA (TAP)
TO (TAP)
TON (THUMP)
DO (WHIP)
GUWA (WHOOSH)
HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA MAKE ME DO THIS!?
AREN'T YOU READY YET!?
GOOD! WELL DONE, IZUTSUMI!


AAA
YES!
PER-
FECT!
PAN
SPANG


ちん
CHIN (DINK)
BAN (BAM)
ALSO, I CAN USE PRO-JEC-TILES...
...BUT NOT WELL ENOUGH TO DO MUCH DAMAGE...
...SO DON'T COUNT ON ME FOR HELP!
HEY! ARE YOU PLAYING AROUND !?
NO, IDIOT! LOOK AT WHERE THE ARROW HIT.
GU (GRIP)
WHA ...!?
SA (WHIP)
THE REST IS ALL YOURS.


AS LONG AS I KNOW HOW TO KILL IT.
...WELL.
GA'SHUN (CHONK)
BISHI
BISHI (KRIK)
BISHI
PI (KRIK)

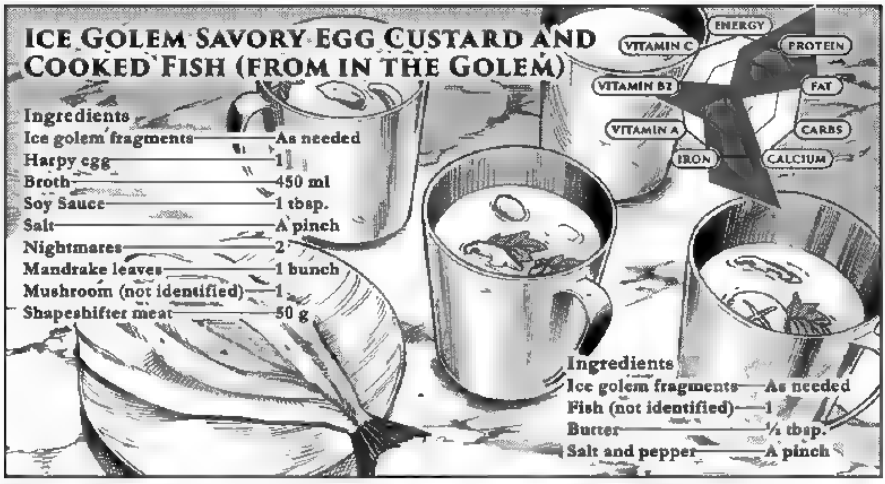

GARA
GARA
(GARA (RUMBLE)
ZUBO (POP)
HMPH!
AH!
AH...
ICHOO!
IT LOOKS LIKE I'M THE ONLY ONE HERE WHO CAN ACTUALLY MOVE.
YOU'RE ALL A BUNCH OF...


THAT MAGIC CIRCLE GETS REALLY HOT, SO DON'T GET BURNED.
IS EVERYBODY OKAY? IT'LL WARM UP SOON.
GATA
GATA
GATA (SHAKE)
GACHI
GACHI
GACHI (SHIVER)
LAIOS, CAN YOU CHANGE ON YOUR OWN?
UH...
SOME-BODY HELP HIM.
I'LL SCREEN YOU FROM THE REST.
TAKE OFF YOUR WET CLOTHES AND DRY THEM.
COME ON, YOU TOO.
BUT, I MEAN...
YOU DON'T NEED TO SCREEN ME.
SHURU (GLIP)
HAAH...


NOBODY CARES WHEN BEASTS GET NAKE—
WELL, UM, IT WOULD BE BAD IF YOU GOT CHILLED...
CREEPY!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
NO! TOO MUCH TAIL
AT LEAST A LET ME SEE HOW HORNY NIPPLE.
OH!
MUGYU! (SQUISH)
BAY (LEAP)
WAH!
I'LL MAKE SOME-THING HOT.
IT'S WARMED UP A BIT.


MAYBE I CAN MELT IT OVER THE MAGIC CIRCLE.
I'LL NEED TO THAW THIS...
WE HAVEN'T BATHED IN A WHILE. LET'S SWEAT IT OUT!
OH, BUT THIS IS NICE.
LIKE A SALINA.
MUST HAVE BEEN TOO CLOSE.
WHOA!
BUSHUU CFWOOSH
WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO'S ?
HUH!? THAT COMES OFF!!?


OH BOY, OH BOY!
I BET WE'LL ALL SMELL LIKE FISH AFTER THIS.
MAKE BROTH FROM THE HEAD AND BONES.
I CLEANED IT!
DRESS THE FISH, SETTING ASIDE THE HEAD AND BONES.
SOWA (DIGGED)
SOMA
BEAT THE HARPY EGG...
...THEN ADD IT AND THE OTHER INGREDIENTS TO THE BROTH.
FINELY SLICE THE MUSHROOMS AND NIGHTMARES.
BRIEFLY BOIL THE SHAPE-SHIFTER MEAT, REMOVING THE SCUM.
ARE YOU BORED?
I MADE IT OUT OF HER SHED HAIR.
LOOK.
IRA
(ORK)
IRA
IRA
SET THEM IN THE POT WITH SOME ICE GOLEM FRAGMENTS, THEN HEAT.
POUR INTO CUPS.

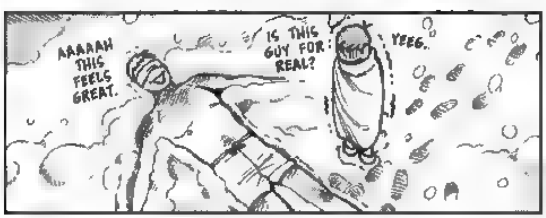

ICE GOLEM SAVORY EGG CUSTARD AND COOKED FISH (FROM IN THE GOLEM)
Ingredients
Ice golem fragments — As needed
Harpy egg — 1
Broth — 450 ml
Soy Sauce — 1 tbsp.
Salt — A pinch
Nightmares — 2
Mandrake leaves — 1 bunch
Mushroom (not identified) — 1
Shapeshifter meat — 50 g
ENERGY
PROTEIN
FAT
CARBS
CALCIUM
IRON
VITAMIN A
VITAMIN B2
VITAMIN C
Ingredients
Ice golem fragments — As needed
Fish (not identified) — 1
Butter — ½ tbsp.
Salt and pepper — A pinch


YOU MUSTN'T JUST START EATING.
WAIT UNTIL WE'RE ALL AT THE TABLE.


GYUMU (PUSH)
HEY.


IT'S D—
AAAH


YEP.
CHILCHUCK, LAIOS IS OUTSIDE. GO CALL HIM, WOULD YOU?
MEALS START WHEN WE'RE ALL HERE.


AAAAAH THIS FEELS GREAT.
IS THIS GUY FOR REAL?
YEEG.


MROW!
WHY!?
I KILLED THE ENEMY BY MYSELF!
I HAVE THE RIGHT TO EAT FIRST!
MROW!


LET'S EAT!
ALL RIGHT. NOW THAT WE'RE ALL HERE...
LOUSY WASTE OF TIME.
IRA
IRA
IRA
IRA
KUCHA (SMACK)
KUCHA
PITO (TOUCH)
OH! SORRY, MARCILLE
YUM!
IT'S PUDDING.
I SEWED THE RIPPED BAG BACK TOGETHER.
YOU USE IT.
I'M NOT GOING TO TAKE IT
GA (SHF)
WHAT?
THIS IS FOR YOU.
HEY, IZUTSUMI.


UH... SORRY FOR CALLING YOU AN ANIMAL.
I'VE GOT A FOUL MOUTH.
IT DOES HAVE ADVANTAGES, THOUGH.
YOU CAN LET OTHER PEOPLE HANDLE THE THINGS YOU CAN'T DO.
TRAVELING WITH A GROUP OF STRANGERS...
...MIGHT FEEL RESTRICTIVE AND IRRITATING FOR A WHILE.
I THINK THE FIRE M GHT BE DYING DOWN
THANKS FOR THE FOOD!
...AKE.


44. Barometz


SORRY ABOUT THAT.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO KEEP YOU WAITING.
HEY. AREN'T YOU DONE YET?
JUST A LITTLE LONGER.
DO THIS WITH THIS BIT, AND...
OKAY!
IRA
IRA ORIO
THEY'RE HARD TO MOVE IN.
IT TOOK SOME TIME TO TAKE THEM IN, THOUGH.
THEY WERE NAMARI'S. PERFECT, AREN'T THEY?
TA-DAAA!
I SAID I WAS SORRY.
I GOT ALL COLD AGAIN.
WELL THEN, LET'S HEAD OUT.


WOW...
THEY'RE MANDRAKES, BOILED AND SWEETENED.
I THOUGHT THEY'D BE GOOD TRAVEL RATIONS.
WAIT.
HEY.
HERE.
NO, COME ON, JUST TRY A BITE...
STUB-BORN SON OF A...!!
SAY "AAAH."
WHY NOT?
THEY'RE REALLY GOOD.
I SAID, I DON'T WANT IT.
THIS ONE'S YOURS.
I DON'T WANT IT.


I'LL DO IT MYSELF.
JUST LET HER BE. SHE'LL EAT WHEN SHE'S HUNGRY.
H-HOW MEAN!
HOW DID WE GET BLOODSHED AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
IF YOU EAT MONSTERS, YOU GET WEIRD DISEASES AND TURN INTO ONE.
THAT'S WHY I DON'T WANT TO!
EVERY-ONE SAYS THAT.
HOW IS IT DIFFERENT FROM EATING ANIMALS?
WHY DON'T YOU WANT TO EAT IT?
'COS IT'S A MON-STER.
WE KNOW IT ISN'T LOGICAL...
...BUT I THINK THAT'S THE REASON FOR MOST PEOPLE, ME INCLUDED.
YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE ABSORBING SOMETHING BAD SOMEHOW.
WELL, THEY SEEM "UNCLEAN."
IF YOU COULD TURN INTO A MONSTER JUST BY EATING THEM, LIFE WOULD BE EASY.


I SEE.
REALLY, I DON'T THINK "VAGUE REVULSION" CAN BE TAKEN LIGHTLY.
NEW DISEASES CAN EMERGE FROM CREATURES THAT ARE IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH HUMANS.
THIS IS REALLY GOOD, ISN'T IT?
UNLIKE ANIMALS ...
...MOST MONSTERS SUPPLEMENT THEIR ENERGY WITH MANA, AND THEIR AGGRESSION OUTSTRIPS THEIR BASIC SURVIVAL NEEDS.
MANA THAT'S TOO INTENSE IS TOXIC TO ANIMALS, AND THEY MAY ATTACK AND EAT HUMANS.
BLEH.
LEEK
WHAT IF THEY SERVED A FOOD YOU DIDN'T LIKE?
WHAT DID YOU DO UP TILL NOW, THOUGH?
UP TILL NOW...
IT NEVER CAME UP.
NOW YOU'RE LYING!
LET'S GO, YOU TWO.
THANKS, IZU... ASEBI!
NOGU
MOGU CHOCO
HERE, TADE.


I'M HUNGRY ANYWAY.
WANT TO CAMP HERE FOR TODAY?
THIS BLIZZARD JUST ISN'T LETTING UP.
LET'S FIX THE MEAL ON OUR OWN.
Ill...
IT LOOKS LIKE SENSHI'S TIRED TOO.
RICE, THEN!
THERE'S NO MORE FISH.
ANY FISH?
WHAT DO WE HAVE LEFT?
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH RICE LEFT EITHER.
UH, NIGHTMARES AND MANDRAKES, EGGS, MUSHROOMS, AND...
WHAT IS THIS?


YOU SHOULD HURRY AND GET USED TO IT.
WE'VE BEEN EATING ALL SORTS OF THINGS ALL THIS TIME.
YOU CAN'T BE A PICKY EATER IN THE DUNGEON.
NO!
I ONLY EAT WHAT I WANT TO EAT.
THAT'S ALL OF IT.
HAH! I BET YOU'RE HIDING IT.
ISN'T THERE ANYTHING BETTER THAN THIS?
IF A BLIND PERSON EATS AN EYEBALL, DO THEY RECOVER THEIR SIGHT?
SHEEP ONLY EAT PLANTS, BUT DO THEY TURN INTO THEM?
DO PEOPLE WHO EAT SHEEP OR PIGS EVER TURN INTO THEM?
IZUTSUMI, LISTEN.
EATING MONSTERS WON'T TURN YOU INTO ONE.
WHAT DO YOU CALL THAT, THEN!?
THAT...?
SHUT UP! SHUT UP!!
THAT'S WHY WE'RE WORKING HARD AND EXPERIMENTING.
FOOD AND NUTRITION AREN'T THAT SIMPLE.


LISTEN, IZUTSUMI.
THAT'S A PLANT, AND IT WAS ALWAYS LIKE—
I'M SICK OF YOUR PREACHING.
SHUT IT.
IT'S A BAROMETZ.
BUT IT DIDN'T HAVE TO SHOW UP RIGHT NOW.
.....
THAT SHEEP IS A TREE.
IT DOES LIVE ON MANA, BUT...
...THE BAROMETZ ITSELF IS HARMLESS.
ONLY...
WHAT'S A BAROMETZ? IS IT A MONSTER?
SO SHE'S FINE WITH THAT.
I'M GONNA GO CATCH THAT SHEEP.
THAT'S IT.


I KNEW SHE'D DO THAT.
YAGH!
ZAAA
W-WAIT...
ZU
ZU (SHF)
...THEY TEND TO ATTRACT CARNIVORES.
ZAZAAA (SKSH)
CARE-LESSLY GOING NEAR THEM ISN'T SAFE.
WHO DOES HE THINK HE'S TALKING TO?
KUN (SNIFF)
TANA (TMP)
BE CAREFUL, IZUTSUMI.
THEY'RE HERE.
HUH?
IT'S NOT SAFE TO STAY HERE.
HARVEST THE SHEEP QUICKLY, THEN...
THAT SMELL...


GRRR!
...
OH, COME ON.
NOT GOOD. THEY'RE DIRE WOLVES!!
MARCILLE, GET BACK!


ドゴ
DO (GHUNK)
ヤリて!
キュイーン
KYU (WHINE)
GRAAA!
SOSOKUSA (CRASH)
ガサガサ
S-STAFF...
STAFF...


HOLD IT!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING!?
HUH? I "LEFT IT TO YOU."
YOU SAID "COMPANIONS" COMPENSATE FOR ONE ANOTHER, REMEMBER?
.....
.....
I-IS THAT ANY REASON TO GO OFF ON YOUR OWN?
I HATE DOGS.
THEY'RE SMELLY, NOISY, AND STUBBORN.
L-LET'S GO BACK, ALL RIGHT? IT'S NOT SAFE.
NOPE.
...NOT BECAUSE I DON'T LIKE GOLEMS...
Y-YOU'RE RIGHT. I DID LEAVE THAT TO YOU, BUT...
ARE THE OTHERS OKAY?
THAT'S NOT WHAT WE MEANT...
THAT'S THAT ...
YOU DIDN'T FIGHT THAT GOLEM.
WHAT!?

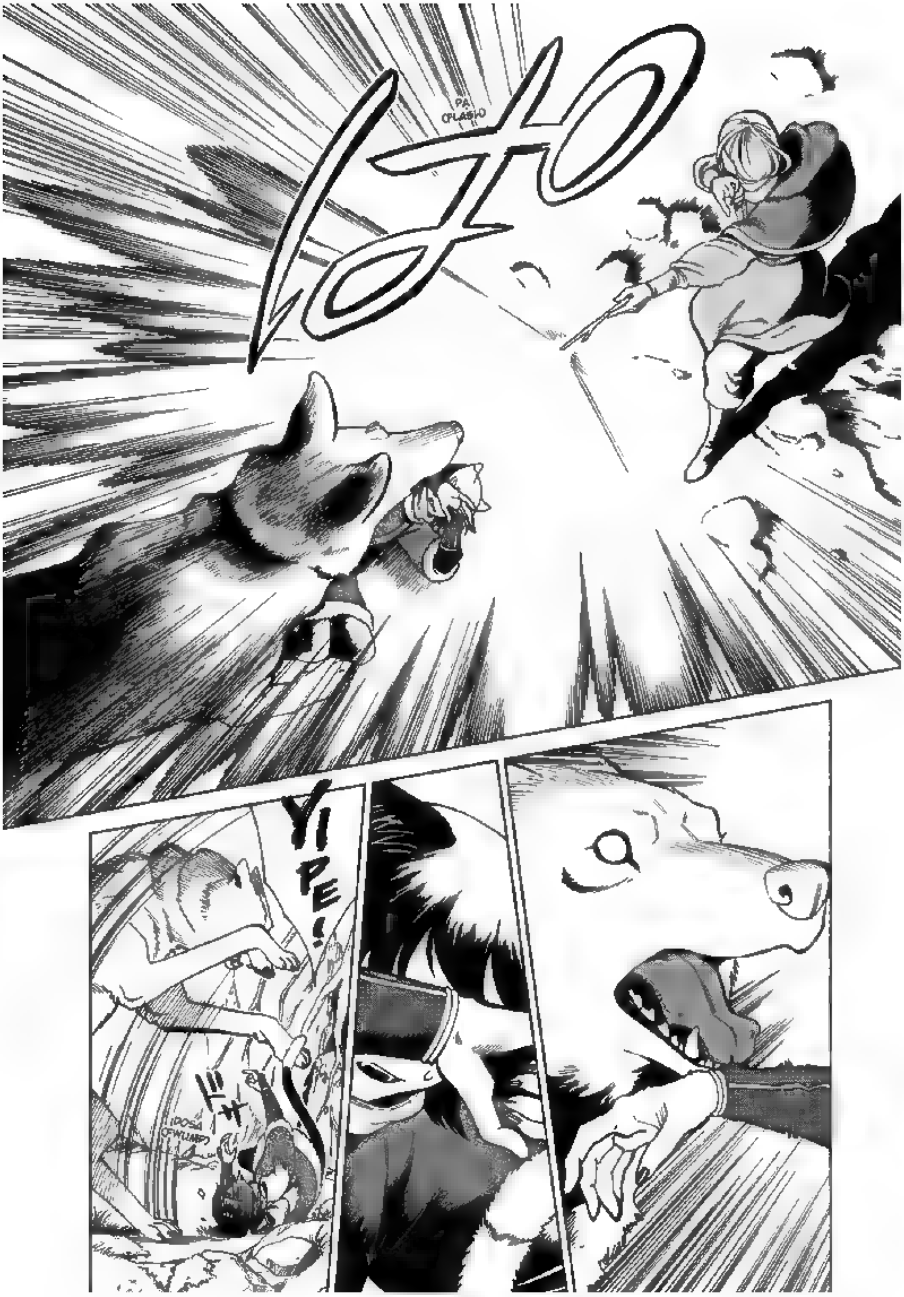

THAT LOOKS COMPLICATED.
KUHI (SNIFF)
KUHI
!
I SMELL FIRE ON THE WIND.
(HYUU) (WOOO)
THAT'LL TAKE ME BACK TO WHERE WE CAME FROM.
SUTA (STALK)
SUTA
WAIT...
OH!
I TAKE THE PATHS I LIKE.
YOU COULD JUST DO THAT TOO.
WH-WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
IS THIS THE RIGHT WAY?
FUI (IGNORED)
THE SMELL'S STRONGER TO THE RIGHT. BUT...
OH.
...THAT PATH LOOKS ROUGH. SO I'M TAKING THIS ONE.
URK
WELL, I...
YOU HATE EATING MONSTERS, BUT YOU DO IT ANYWAY.
THAT MAKES NO SENSE.
I'VE BEEN WONDERING FOR AGES NOW.
WHY DON'T YOU DO MORE OF WHAT YOU WANT?


I CAN USE EXPLODING SPELLS...
...BUT I DON'T HAVE MY STAFF, AND IT'S TOO CRAMPED FOR SAFETY HERE.
I COULD USE BRIGHT LIGHT TO STUN THEM...
BLAH...
BLAH...
IT SOUNDS LIKE THE WOLVES CAME AFTER US.
WANT TO FIGHT THEM HERE!?
WUFF!
WUFF!
HUUH!?
REF!
WFF!
HUH!?
DA (DASH)
I'LL RUN AND LOSE 'EM.
BYUUU (WHOOSH)
PARA
(PARA CRUMBL)
DOON (BOOM)
OW. OW. OW.
HEY! ASEB!!
OUCH!
POOON
.....


DOSU (STOMP)
DOSU
YOU'D THINK YOU COULD BE A LITTLE MORE GRATEFUL TO US FOR TAKING YOU IN.
SHE FELL OFF THE ROOF DOING THAT.
UNLIKE YOU, SHE'S CLUMSY.
DON'T FORCE JOBS YOU DON'T LIKE ONTO HER!
NO.
YOU MADE TADE CLEAR THE SNOW OFF THE TRAINING HALL ROOF, DIDN'T YOU?
LIAR!
BUT TADE WANTS...
WHY'D YOU DO THAT WHEN NOBODY ASKED YOU TO?
YOU REALLY ARE DUMB.
HEY, TADE.
A CHAR
TO
TO (TMP)
TO PA
BYUUUU
BACK THEN...
... WHAT WAS IT SHE SAID?
WELL, WHATEVER.


AH!
GABU! (CHOMP)
DO (WHILE)
I BLEW IT.
THE EXPLOSION CHANGED THE WIND, SO I DIDN'T NOTICE IT.


GACHIN (CLANG)
MEK (CRUNCH)
GRAH
BUN (SHAKE)
BUN
FURA (SHUTTER)
フラ…
フラッ…
CLOSE!
YOU'VE SEEN TOO MUCH!


PA!
CPLASH!
YIPE!
GROWL!

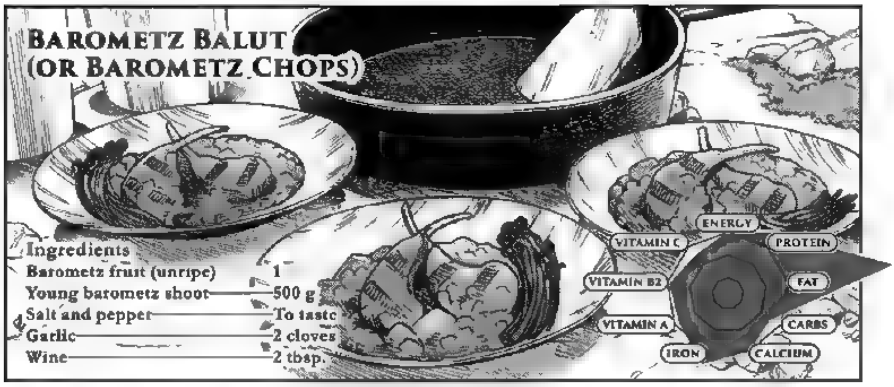

T-TOO CLOSE...


LET'S FIND THE OTHERS.
YOUR ARM'S BROKEN, ISN'T IT?
CAN YOU WALK?
OW!
IZU-TSUMI! ARE YOU ALIVE!?
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT.
YOU ASKED WHY I ATE MONSTERS.
LISTEN...


...BUT ON THE WAY, I RUN INTO THINGS I DON'T LIKE.
SO I'M WORKING TOWARD THOSE GOALS...
I HAVE MULTIPLE GOALS.
I WANT TO SAVE MY FRIEND.
I ALSO WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MAGIC.
...OR I'M TIRED, OR I HAVE TO EAT THINGS I HATE.
SOME-THING'S A PAIN, SAY...
JUST LIKE WE'RE DOING NOW.
WHICH ONE IS IT?
BUT IF I AVOID EVERYTHING I DON'T LIKE...
...I'LL GET FURTHER AND FURTHER FROM THE PATH. YOU SEE?
NONE OF THOSE IS A BIG DEAL ON ITS OWN.
EVEN IF AVOIDING THEM REQUIRES A BIT OF A DETOUR, I'LL STILL ACHIEVE MY ENDS.
...YOU HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO TAKE A FEW SHORTCUTS.
THIS ONE
...IF WE MET THE LUNATIC WHATSIT, YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET THIS SPELL OFF.
BECAUSE YOU SAID...
THAT'S RIGHT. SO...
WHY DID YOU COME WITH US, IZUTSUMI?


WHAT ABOUT YOU?
WE WEREN'T THAT OKAY, BUT...
IZU-TSUMI! MAR-CILLE!
YOU'RE OKAY?
...LAIOS'S THREATS GOT US THROUGH.
GN YAAA!!!
MEKI
KRIK
MEKI
I'M GOING TO SET IT AND CAST A RECOVERY SPELL ON IT.
SHE BROKE HER ARM.
HELP ME.
HURRY UP
OK
MOST OF THE WOLVES WENT AFTER YOU, MARCILLE.
DID YOU GET HURT?
GOGO (RUMMAGE)
THIS IS WHAT WAS LEFT.
I WANTED TO HARVEST A BAROMETZ ...
...BUT THE WOLVES MADE OFF WITH THE ADULT.
YOU DID GREAT. IT WON'T HURT FOR LONG.
THE RECOVERY SPELL HURT HORSE...


LET'S TRY COOKING IT.
IT'S NOT RIPE, BUT...
DOROR! (GLORP!)
OH! I CAN'T ETHICALLY, IN A DIFFERENT WAY FROM BEFORE, I CAN'T.
THERE'S A SHEEP IN THAT VEGETABLE.
ONCE BOTH SIDES ACQUIRE A NICE COLOR
...ADD WINE, COVER, AND BAKE THEM.
CUT BAROMETZ RIBS INTO CHOPS
...THEN SEASON AND PARTIALLY COOK THEM.
POUR THE FINISHED SAUCE OVER THE MEAT, AND...
DOROR!
ADD GARLIC, THEN STEW THE MIXTURE
RUN THE RIND OF THE FRUIT THROUGH HOT WATER, THEN REMOVE THE SKIN AND CHOP ROUGHLY INTO CHUNKS.


Barometz Balut
(or Barometz Chops)
Ingredients
Barometz fruit (unripe) 1
Young barometz shoot 500 g
Salt and pepper To taste
Garlic 2 cloves
Wine 2 tbsp.
ENERGY
PROTEIN
FAT
CARBS
CALCIUM
IRON
VITAMIN A
VITAMIN B2
VITAMIN C


YOU SHOULD'VE JUST GRILLED THE MEAT BY ITSELF...
.....
BAROMETZ FRUIT AREN'T ACTUALLY SHEEP.
THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM.


IT'S GOT WEIRD STUFF IN IT...
BLEH.
THAT'S THE BAROMETZ SKIN AND SHOOT.


HERE, CAT-GIRL. THIS IS YOURS.


MARCILLE, BAROMETZ AREN'T REAL SHEEP.
THEY LOOK EXACTLY LIKE SHEEP, BUT...




KUN (SNIFF)


BAKU (CHOMP)

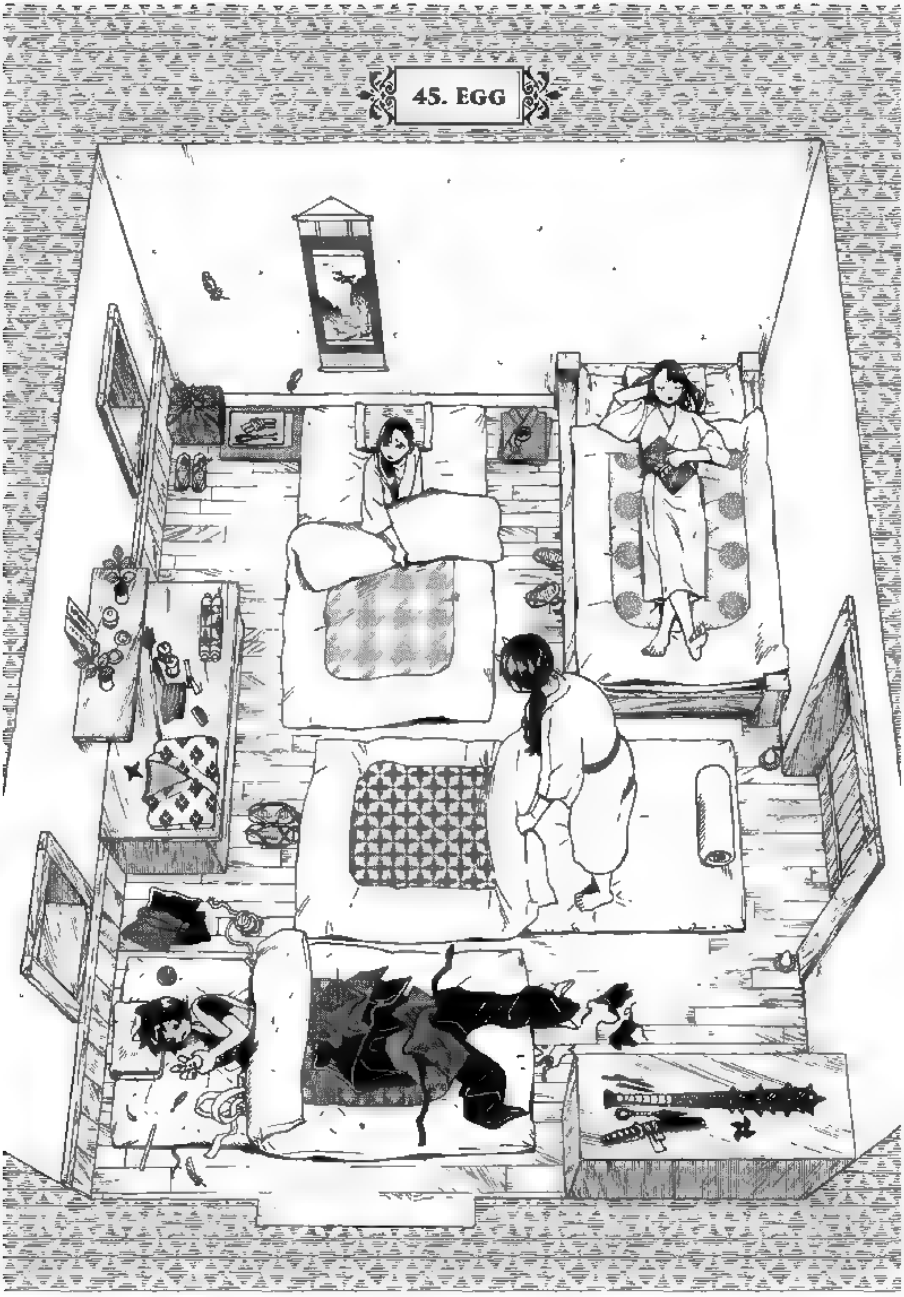

GARI
GARI (GRIND)
YUM...
I DIDN'T KNOW FOOD THIS GOOD EVEN EXISTED.
NGU (GNAW)
NGU
...THEY TASTE LIKE CRAB.
SO WHAT?
GATSU (SHARP)
GATSU
...TO BE USEFUL TO THE REST OF YOU.
YOU REALLY ARE DUMB.
TADE JUST WANTS...
COME TO THINK OF IT...
TADE, WHY'D YOU DO THAT WHEN NOBODY ASKED YOU TO?
IF IT SHOWS HOW USEFUL I CAN BE, SURE, I'LL DO CHORES!
HUHH...
I JUST CAN'T LET THEM TURN ME OUT.
I MEAN, THIS IS A GOOD PLACE, YOU KNOW?
WE GET THREE MEALS, WE CAN BATHE, AND THE PUTONS ARE WARM.
OUCH!
BISHI (WHAP)
SO THAT'S REALLY WHY YOU DO IT, HUH?
...AND ALSO, SOMETIMES LADY MAIZURU REWARDS ME WITH TREATS.
ASEBI.
DON'T GET LOST BECAUSE A LITTLE TROUBLE GOT THE BETTER OF YOU.


MAYBE IT'S LIKE SHE SAID.
SOME-TIMES YOU GET TASTY STUFF OUT OF THE DEAL.
WHAT DO YOU THINK I AM!?
BARI
BARI
BARI (SCRATCH)
GOOOOD GOOD GOOD!
QUIT ...!
WHY, YOU...
YOU WORKED REALLY HARD! WHAT A GOOD GIRL!!
GOOD! VERY GOOD, IZU-TSUMI!
WHA ...!?
BY THE WAY, MARCILLE, YOU'RE NOT EATING MUCH.
YOU THINK YOU CAN GET OUT OF IT AFTER LECTURING ME LIKE THAT?
MARCILLE DEEPLY REGRETTED BLOCKING HER OWN ESCAPE ROUTE.
YOU CAN'T TELL IF THEY'RE NASTY OR NOT UNTIL YOU TRY THEM.
I HAD NO CHOICE THIS TIME, THAT'S ALL.
I WON'T EAT NASTY VEGETABLES [redacted] NOW ON EITHER.



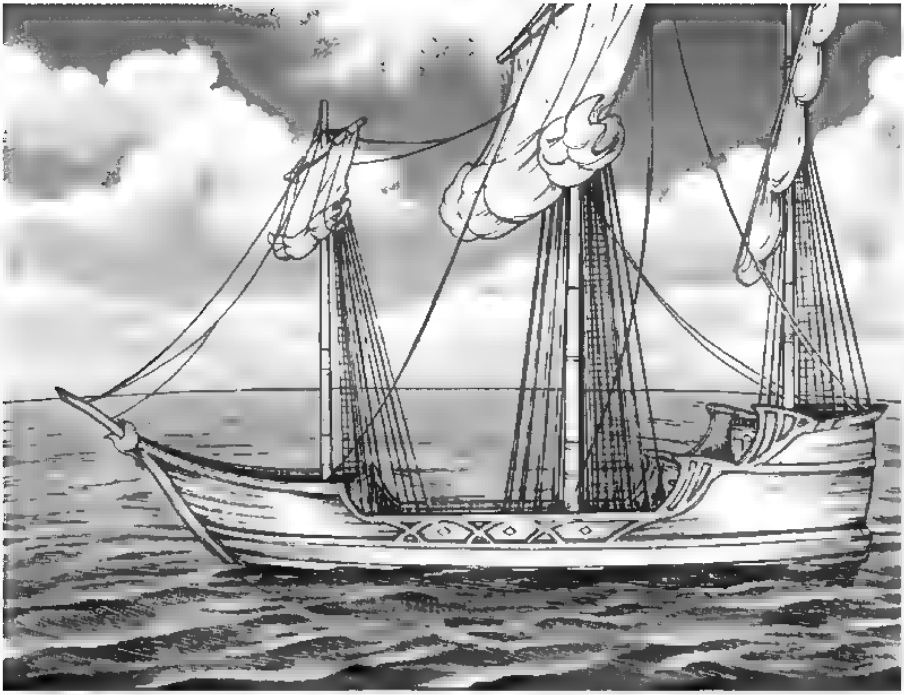


# 45. EGG




NUN (ZWOOP)
ぬん
SHURU
SHURU
SHURU (SHHK)
WE'RE HOOOME!
THE AIR ABOVE-GROUND REALLY IS THE BEST.
IS IT DAWN? EVENING?
HEY, DON'T TOUCH THE WINDOW YET.
YOU'LL SPOIL THE TELEPOR-TATION SPELL.


LET'S GET OUR STORIES STRAIGHT TOMORROW, THEN.
YES, YOU'RE RIGHT.
I JUST DON'T WANT TO LET FALIN KILL ANYONE ELSE.
THERE'S... NO NEED TO MENTION LAIOS'S GROUP.
KABRU.
I'LL GO REPORT TO THE LORD TOMORROW.
I'D LIKE YOU TO CORROBORATE MY TESTIMONY.
YOU'RE GOING TO TELL HIM EVERYTHING?
WHOA! KURO, LOOK.
PLEASE RELAX AND REST FOR TODAY.
(GASP)
(CLINGS)
THAT SHIP IS HUGE!
THINK THERE ARE TONS OF RICH PEOPLE ON IT?




IT LOOKS AS IF WE'LL NEED TO HEAD OVER RIGHT AWAY.
THIS ISN'T GOOD.
I'M SORRY, TOSHIRO.
THAT SONG-BIRD FIGURE-HEAD.
THAT HAG TOO FAST, DAMMIT.
IT BELONGS TO THE WESTERN ELVES.
I THOUGHT WE'D HAVE A LITTLE MORE TIME...
WHAT IS THAT WHITE SHIP?


THEIR MISSION IS TO INVESTIGATE THE DUNGEON ...
...AND CONQUER IT.
ONCE A DUNGEON'S DANGER RISES ABOVE A CERTAIN POINT, THEY COME.
IT'S CALLED THE CANARY.
POPULARLY ANYWAY.
IF THEY GET THE BETTER OF HIM...
UNFORTUNATELY, THE LORD ISN'T A SKILLED NEGOTIATOR.
I'D HEARD RUMORS THAT THEY'VE BEEN PUTTING PRESSURE ON THE LORD FOR A WHILE, BUT...
...IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE SWITCHED TO COERCION.
RIP
LADS AND CO ARRESTED
AAH!
FALIN FOUND
DOOOOO (RUMBLE)
ELVES RUSH IN
LET'S HURRY.
TO ELVES AND DWARFS, RACES WITH SHORT LIVES AND HISTORIES ARE LIKE INFANTS.
IT WOULD BE LIKE KEEPING KNIVES AWAY FROM A CHILD TO THEM.
CAN THEY DO THAT?
THIS IS A TALL-MAN REGION, ISN'T IT?

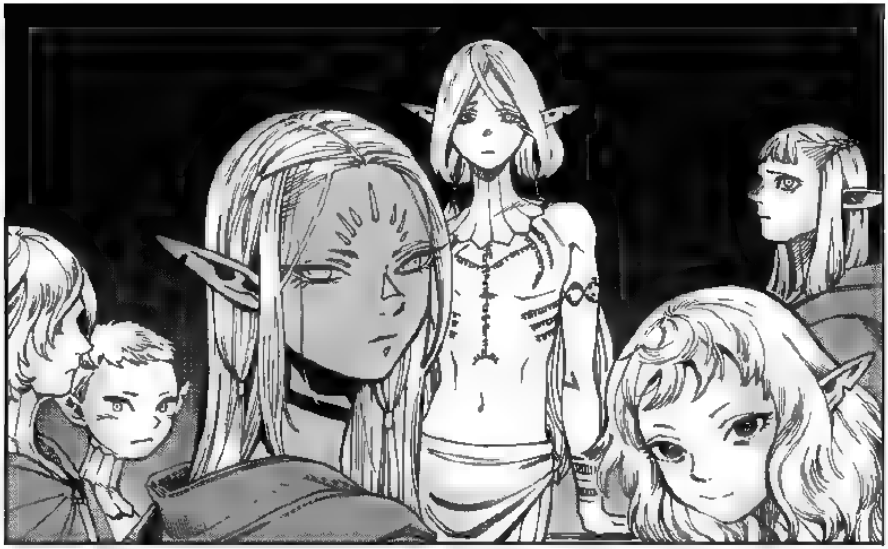

CHIRIN (JINGLE)
チリン
CHIRIN
チリン
IT DOES MAKE FOR A GOOD THREAT.
CHIRIN
チリン
DO THEY REALLY SKIN YOU IF THEY CATCH YOU?
THEY SAY PEOPLE TRIED TO FLEE THE ISLAND AND GOT CAUGHT.
THAT'S CREEPY.
WITH THEM CAMPED THERE, YOU CAN'T EVEN PISS OUTDOORS.
WELL ...
...I DON'T WANT THE DUNGEON TO CREATE ANY MORE VICTIMS...
YOU KNOW TOO MUCH ABOUT THIS. WHAT ARE YOU AFTER?


IS THAT ALL?
チリ
CHIRI
I JUST...
...DON'T LIKE THE WAY THE ELVES GO ABOUT THESE THINGS.
WHY SO ANXIOUS?
THEN THE SUREST WAY WOULD BE TO LEAVE IT TO THE ELVES.
CHIRIN
CHIN
CHIRIRIRIN
チリリリン
.....
WELL... WE'LL KNOW HOW HE'S DOING. THAT'S GOOD, ISN'T IT?
IT PROVES HE'S WELL
I MEAN IT— DON'T!
OH!
DON'T DO ANYTHING HASTY.
DOI (TOSS)
THAT BELL JUST KEEPS RINGING, DOESN'T IT?
LAIOS MUST HAVE TOSSED IT INTO HIS PACK.
IT'S ROLLING AROUND ON THE BOTTOM WITH EVERY STEP HE TAKES.


HEY, IF IT AIN'T SHURO!
NAMARI, HM?
LAIOS AND THE REST HAVEN'T GIVEN UP, BUT...
I SEE.
SO... FALIN?
DID YOU EAT THAT STUFF?
YES, I DID.
THEY WENT IN TO TALK, AND THAT'S IT.
THEY'VE BEEN IN THERE FOR HOURS.
AAH...
YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK.
VIPs SHOWED UP ALL OF A SUDDEN.
UM...
WE CAME TO SEE THE LORD OF THE ISLAND.


SO WE'RE TOO LATE...
LET'S GO IN.
JUST HIS ADVISER, THE OLD GNOME.
OTHERS CAME BY, BUT THEY TURNED THEM AWAY.
THE ELVES ARE ALREADY INSIDE?
WHO ELSE?
MY...
MY HOMETOWN GREW PROSPEROUS FROM A DUNGEON TOO.
WHATEVER HAPPENS FROM THEN ON...
...WE'LL NEVER HEAR OF IT.
IF THE DUNGEON GOES TO THE ELVES, THAT'S IT.
HUH?
THAT WOULDN'T BE WISE.
TOSHIRO.
MY MOTHER RAISED ME, DESPERATELY, ALL ON HER OWN.
SHE DIDN'T DESERVE A DEATH LIKE THAT.
WHY DID MY FAMILY HAVE TO DIE?
NO ONE TOLD ME A THING.
WHY DID THAT HAPPEN?
ONE DAY, MONSTERS SUDDENLY FLOODED OUT.
THE ELVES CAME...
...AND MANY DIED.
THIS SYSTEM, WHERE ONLY A FEW RACES HAVE POWER...
...ISN'T HEALTHY FOR ANY SIDE.
I DON'T WANT THAT TO HAPPEN AGAIN.


BAN—
CHYAAN




WHAT?
AS YOU CAN SEE, HE'S BUSY. LEAVE US.




EXCUSE ME.
I BRING A REPORT FOR THE LORD OF THE ISLAND.


BOSO
BOSO (MUTTER)


BE BRIEF.


DON'T LET THEM SCARE YOU.


IT'S A REPORT REGARDING THE SITUATION IN THE DUNGEON.
PLEASE HEAR IT.


ざわ
ZAWA (MUTTER)
JUST MOMENTS AGO, DURING A DUNGEON EXPEDITION...
...WE ENCOUNTERED A HUMAN WHO'S TURNED INTO A MONSTER.
IT'S PROGRESSING FASTER THAN WE THOUGHT.
BLAST. A CHIMERA, HM?
CALM DOWN, ELDER.
NATIONAL BORDERS ARE TRIVIAL WHEN LIVES ARE IN THE BALANCE.
OF ALL THE ARBITRARY...!
LET'S HAVE THEM COME ASHORE RIGHT AWAY!
THERE, SEE? WHAT DID I TELL YOU!?
WE DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO JUST WAIT FOR A REPLY.
PAN (CLAP)
110
7
11
THAT JUST MADE THINGS FAR WORSE.
DON'T DO IT! DON'T YOU DO IT!!
IF YOU'D AFFIX YOUR SEAL HERE, THEN.
THAT'S JUST LIKE YOU, MY LORD. ADAPTABLE AND WISE.
TANSU... ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?
YOU PEOPLE HAVE NO RIGHT TO TREAT ME LIKE I'M OLD!


BUT I DIDN'T.
FRANKLY, I DON'T WANT TO TOUCH MONSTERS. I DON'T WANT TO EVEN SEE THEM.
SERIOUSLY, I'M TELLING YOU, NOT A ONE.
...IF I'D HAD THE POWER TO CONQUER THE DUNGEON, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO PROBLEM.
THE TRUTH IS...
WELL, THEY'RE HERE TO HUNT FOR TREASURE. NO ONE'S THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE RACES.
FINALLY, JUST AS I'D STEELED MYSELF TO CAPTURE THE DUNGEON ON MY OWN...
NO, THEY AREN'T
GIVE BACK THAT MONEY!!
YOU TWO TIMER!
...AND MOST WERE NEARLY WORTHLESS.
HOWEVER, THE MAJORITY WERE SELF-SERVING.
SO I STARTED CHECKING AROUND, TO SEE IF I COULD ASSIST OTHER SKILLED ADVENTURERS.
HM...
SO I INTRODUCED A FRIEND TO THEM...
ANYWAY, THEY'RE ODD.
THEY'VE GOT GOOD INSTINCTS, BUT NO AMBITION...
HUH.
...I HEARD A RUMOR ABOUT THE TOUDEN SIBLINGS.
THEY MUST'VE BEEN BROUGHT UP REALLY WELL.


THEY KEPT ODD COMPANY.
I HEARD THEY WERE DESCENDENTS OF THE GOLDEN CASTLE
THEY SAY HE'S A PRINCE FROM SOMEWHERE
THEY SENT MONEY TO TERRIBLY DISREPUTABLE PEOPLE.
THEIR ORIGINS WERE A MYSTERY.
YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG PERSON
NO, WRONG PERSON
THE MORE I FOUND OUT, THE STRANGER THEY SEEMED.
THEY WEREN'T ALL THAT STRONG, BUT THEY REACHED THE DEPTHS.
MYSTERY WOMAN
I FINALLY GOT TO MEET HIM, AND NOW I'M SURE.
I WANTED TO TALK TO HIM SO I COULD MAKE UP MY MIND, BUT...
THE QUESTION WAS WHETHER THAT ROLE WOULD PROVE TO BE GOOD OR BAD.
EVEN SO, VAGUELY...
...I THOUGHT THE BROTHER MIGHT PLAY A KEY ROLE IN THE ISLAND'S FATE.
WEALTH
GOV'T
SUCCESSION
RIGHTS
VICES
DISCORD
STRIFE
ENVY
THAT GUY CAN'T CONSIDER THE ISLAND'S FUTURE.
...IT SHOULDN'T BE LEFT TO HIM.
...BUT I CAN SAY ONE THING FOR SURE.
HE'S ONLY THINKING ABOUT MONSTERS.


RIGHT NOW, HE'S THE TALL-MAN WHO'S CLOSEST TO THE DUNGEON'S HEART.
ENOUGH.
DO AS YOU WISH.
YAY!
LORD OF THE ISLAND!
TELL THEM TO COME ASHORE...
...I CAN'T LET THESE ELVES GET IN HIS WAY.
I'LL FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO ABOUT HIM LATER.
SINCE THIS IS PROBABLY THE FIRST AND LAST CHANCE...
PLEASE WAIT!!


WE HAVE TO STOP IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
OF COURSE WE KNOW THAT.
IT'S CHARACTERISTIC OF DUNGEONS WHEN THEY'RE GROWING.
IT'S EXTREMELY UNSTABLE.
THE DUNGEON'S STRUCTURE, ENVIRONMENT, AND MONSTERS ARE CHANGING DRASTICALLY.
WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT?
A TIME WHEN IT MOST NEEDS NOURISHMENT
IN HUMAN TERMS, IT'S A GROWTH SPURT.
PIKU
FIFTEEN YEARS...?
FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, A DUNGEON DESTROYED MY HOMETOWN.
IT WAS THE TOWN OF UTAYA.
ARE YOU THE CHILD THEY SAY SURVIVED THAT!?
DO HIS KIND GET THAT BIG IN FIFTEEN YEARS?
THEN...


I WANTED TO PREVENT THE TRAGEDY OF MY HOMETOWN FROM REPEATING.
HOW LAUDABLE.
WELL, WELL.
I'M SURE YOU WERE DOTED ON, AND YET YOU BECAME AN ADVENTURER?
I'D DREAMED OF JOINING YOU, BUT RACE WAS AN OBSTACLE...
I DID HEAR THAT THE VICE-CAPTAIN OR SOMEONE HAD BROUGHT YOU BACK...
YES.
I WAS IN THEIR CARE FOR SEVERAL YEARS.
SO...
PITA (FREEZE)
"NOURISHMENT," YOU SAID.
WHAT ABOUT IT?
GO ON.
ARE YOU EATING PROPERLY?
GO VISIT AND LET 'EM SEE YOU ONCE IN A WHILE.
WANT SOME CAKE?
IT WAS BECAUSE THE DEAD BECAME MONSTERS THAT DEVOURED THE OTHERS ALIVE.
I HEAR MANY SOLDIERS WERE ATTACKED FROM BEHIND AS WELL.
THANKS IN PART TO YOUR EFFORTS, THE UTAYA DUNGEON COLLAPSED PROMPTLY...
SO THAT'S THE BOSS, HM?
...BUT THERE WERE MANY CASUALTIES AMONG SOLDIERS AND RESIDENTS ALIKE.


IF YOU RELY ON NUMBERS, YOU'LL ONLY CREATE ANOTHER UTAYA.
I PROPOSE SEALING THE DUNGEON.
WE MUST NOT FEED IT.
YOU CAN'T WANT TO DAMAGE THE DUNGEON WITH COMBAT EITHER.
ALL HUMANS HAVE CONNECTIONS OF SOME SORT.
I KNOW OF SEVERAL GO-BETWEENS I CAN ASK FOR HELP.
PLEASE LEAVE IT TO ME!
WHAT OF THE HUMANS LEFT INSIDE?
MOST ARE CONCENTRATED ON THE FIRST FLOOR.
LET'S EVACUATE THEM LITTLE BY LITTLE.
THIS GUY...
HISO HISO (WHISPER)
!!
PASHI (SNATCH)
GNAW


BATAN (CLANG)
GACHA (CLANK)
I ASSUME YOU'LL HELP ME TOO.
EEP!
SUU (LIT.)
...
A BACKGROUND LIKE THAT, AND HE ATE MONSTERS?
MENTAL IMAGE
I EXPECT YOU'RE PLOTTING SOMETHING.
KOTSU (TAP)
KOTSU
HUH?
GATA (CLATTER)
...HEY. GET READY.
FOR AN EXPEDITION.
...SEND THE UNIT IN AT ONCE.
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS ...
GOT IT?
YES!
IF YOU INSIST, THEN LET'S SEE YOU DO IT.
I'LL ACCOMPANY YOU.


FUTSU (BUBBLE)
FUTSU
MISHI
MISHI (CRUNCH)
GON (WHUNK)
GAN (CLONK)
BAGYA (CRACK)
DOBUN (SPLOOSH)
CRACK AN EGG INTO BOILING WATER.
...DAWN
HUH?
...WAS IT A SCRAMBLED EGG?
GURU (SWIRL)
GURU
BOKO (BLUP)
BOKO
GURUN (TWIRL)


BURIJN (JIGGLE)
ONCE THE WHITE SOLIDIFIES, TAKE IT OUT.
FOR EXAMPLE, THE SITUATION WOULD CHANGE COMPLETELY DEPENDING ON WHETHER YOU MEANT "SCRAMBLED" OR "FRIED."
ZABAA (SPLASH)
EARLIER, YOU COMPARED THE SOUL TO AN EGG.
WHEN YOU SAID THE SOULS WERE MINGLED, HOW DID YOU MEAN, IN EGG TERMS?
NOTHING BEHAVES IN AS MANY DIFFERENT WAYS AS EGGS!
FOR EXAMPLE, THE WHITE AND THE YOLK SOLIDIFY AT DIFFERENT TEMPERATURES.
NO?
I WAS IMPRESSED. I THOUGHT IT WAS A GOOD COMPARISON.
...LISTEN.
I DIDN'T COMPARE SOULS TO EGGS...
...SO YOU COULD JUMP ON WHAT I SAID AND PLAY AROUND WITH IT.
LIKE THIS.
...IT WILL MIX WELL EVEN WITH THINGS THAT WOULDN'T NORMALLY MIX WITH IT, LIKE OIL AND WATER.
IF CONDITIONS ARE RIGHT...
BEAT THE YOLK IN A WATER BATH, THEN SLOWLY ADD BUTTER.
KA (CLAK)
KA
KA
KA
FROTHINESS, MOISTURE RETENTION, STICKINESS...
THE INTERESTING ONE IS EMULSIFICATION.


LAIOS, GRAB ME THAT BREAD.
WHY NOT A LIQUID?
EMULSIFY?
YOLK? WHITE??
YOU'RE RIGHT. WHY EGGS?
WELL, I MEAN...
PUTSU (SPLIRT)
POUR SAUCE OVER IT, THEN PRICK THE EGG WITH A KNIFE, AND...
PURUN (JIGGLE)
PUT A POACHED EGG AND OTHER INGREDIENTS ON TOP.
SLICE THE BREAD.
SOUL EGGS BENEDICT
Ingredients
Bread 1 loaf
Harpy egg 1
Barometz 120 g
Egg yolk (cockatrice) 1
Butter 50 g
Spices To taste
Lemon juice (if you have it)
IT'S DONE.
ENERGY
PROTEIN
FAT
CARBS
CALCIUM
IRON
VITAMIN A
VITAMIN B2
VITAMIN C


SOUL ..
MOP UP THE YOLK AND SAUCE WITH THE BREAD AS YOU EAT.
USE YOUR KNIFE AND FORK.
HOW ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO EAT THIS?
DELICIOUS, AS ALWAYS.
MAYBE THE "SOUL" COMPARISON WAS BASED ON FLAVOR.
PAKU CMUNCH
GUI
GUI CPUSH
DIN CPWN
THAT'S EVEN SCARIER.
NOT REALLY.
I JUST THOUGHT I FELT A PRESENCE.
...IZUTSUMI.
HUH!?
WAIT...
ARE YOU LOOKING AT SOMETHING?
WOULD YOU QUIT STARING AROUND AT STUFF THAT'S NOT THERE?
IT'S SCARY.


HUH?
AM I...
...NOT ACTUALLY HALLUCI-NATING?
BECAUSE CHILCHUCK ALWAYS SAYS I'M SICK IN THE HEAD AND THREATENS ME.
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO?
WELL, YOU ARE SICK.
HUH? IT'S MY FAULT?
I MEAN, I TOLD YOU I SAW AND HEARD THINGS WHEN I HAD MANA SICKNESS EARLIER, RIGHT?
THAT NEVER WENT AWAY.
ALL THIS TIME!!?
AT FIRST, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THEY WERE SAYING.
I ENVY IT
THAT SIDE OF YOU IS JUST...
BUT THEIR VOICE AND SHAPE GRADUALLY GOT CLEARER...
IT WAS SCARY, SO I'VE BEEN PRETENDING NOT TO SEE IT, BUT...
I DON'T PUSH DON'T PUSH!
WHAT SORT OF HALLUCI-NATIONS?
WELL, UH...
SOMEBODY'S CONSTANTLY TALKING TO ME.


SO YOU ACTUALLY COULD HEAR ME. I KNEW IT.
WHAT DID IT JUST SAY?
IT'S MAD THAT I WAS IGNORING IT...?


DOES IT LOOK EVIL?
IS IT, UH... OKAY TO TALK TO IT?
MM, WELL, SORT OF...
IF IZUTSUMI CAN SEE IT TOO, I WASN'T HALLUCI-NATING.
PHEW!
STILL, THAT'S A RELIEF!
I CAN'T SEE IT


IT'S MAD ABOUT GETTING TREATED LIKE AN EVIL SPIRIT.
WHAT'S IT SAYING NOW?
KURURI (SPIN)
HELLO!
WHAT DID YOU NEED?


THE MAGICIAN?
IT WANTS TO KNOW IF WE FORGOT IT SAVED US FROM THE MAGICIAN.
TELL IT THANK YOU.
AH. THAT.
OH YEAH. THAT DID HAPPEN.
OKAY.
IN THAT CASE, TAKE US TO THEM...
WELL...
HM...
IT'S NOT A GRIM REAPER, RIGHT?
WE DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER OPTIONS.
IT SAYS IT WANTS TO INTRODUCE US TO SOMEBODY!
WHAT DO WE DO?
WAUGH!
THEY ARE EVIL SPIRI—
ZUPON (POO?)
ZOWAA (SWARM)
CHAPTER 45. THE END






WHAT SORT OF PERSON WOULD GHOSTS WANT TO INTRODUCE US TO?
PROBABLY ANOTHER GHOST


ズボ
ZUBO (POP)


YAH!
ZUBO
ズボ


OKAY.
IN THAT CASE, TAKE US TO THEM!
CHAPTER 46


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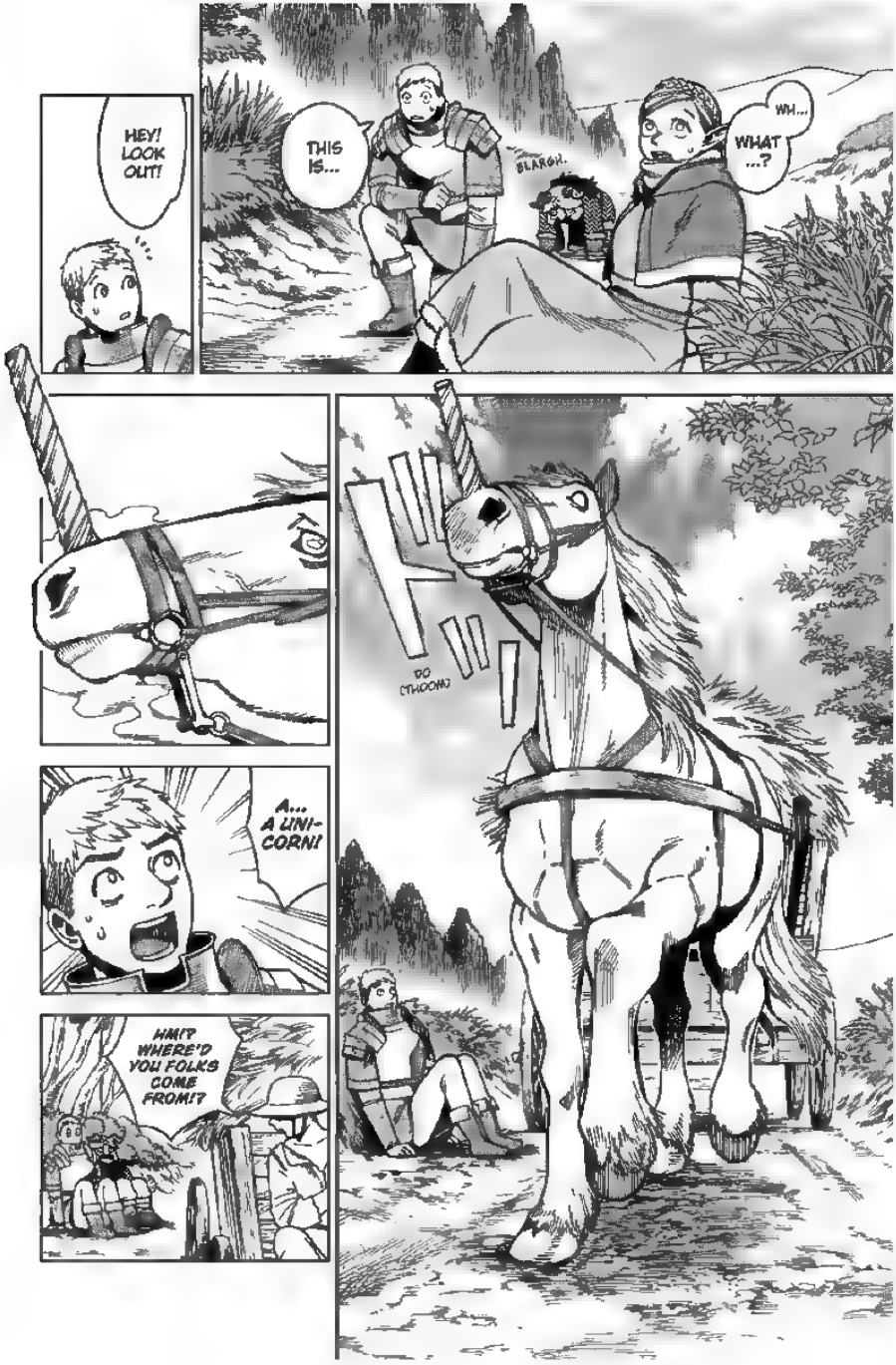

AAH (HARP)


46. The Golden Country



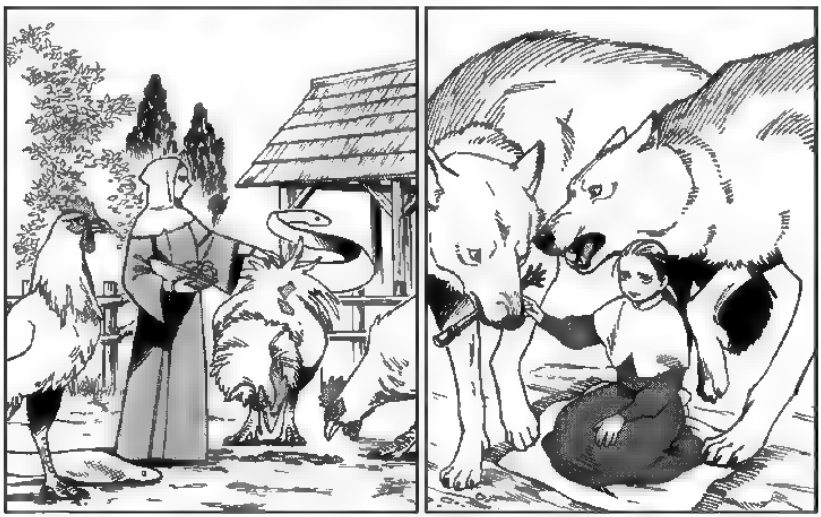





HEY! LOOK OUT!
THIS IS...
BLARGH.
WH...
WHAT ...?
DO (THOOM)
A... A UNI-CORN!
HM!? WHERE'D YOU FOLKS COME FROM!?

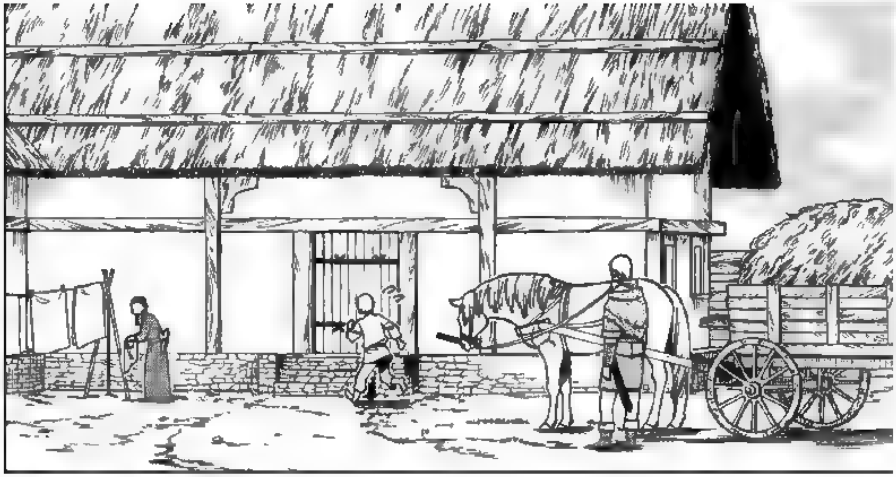

UH, WE CAME FROM THE DUNGEON...
HUH? WHERE ARE THE GHOSTS?
THIS IS HUGE!
ARE YOU MAYBE...
...FROM OUTSIDE !?
COME WITH ME!
BASA (CRUSH)
BAFU (PLOP)
HERE, PUT THESE ON.



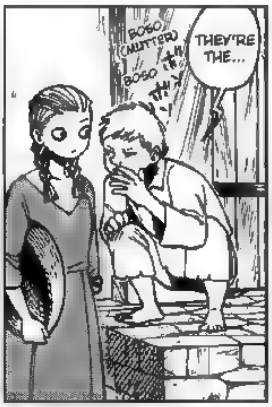



THAT STUFF I GAVE YOU IS OURS— KEEP IT WITH YOU.
THAT WON'T HOLD TRUE FOR OUTSIDERS, THOUGH.
THAT'S 'COS THEY'VE BEEN ORDERED NOT TO HARM US.
THE MONSTERS ARE ALL SO DOCILE.


IS IT TELEPORTATION SICKNESS?
MAYBE SHE GOT TIRED?
KUNYAN (WILT)
IZUTSUMI?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
THE GHOSTS BROUGHT US HERE...
ARE THEY RESIDENTS TOO?
THAT'S RIGHT.
IS THAT THE GOLDEN CASTLE IN THE DISTANCE?
IT'S NOT GOLDEN AT ALL, IS IT?
YEAH. YOU CAME THROUGH THERE.
CHOSEN?
'KAY, WE'RE HERE.
SIT TIGHT A MINUTE.
YOU CAN GET THE FULL STORY FROM THE ONE YOU'RE ABOUT TO MEET.
I DON'T REALLY KNOW...
...WHY YOU GOT CHOSEN EITHER.




WHAT!? THEM!?

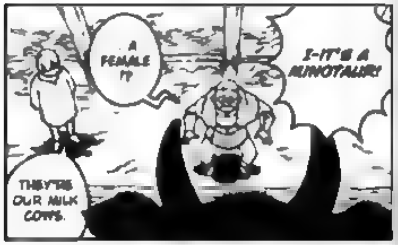

BOSO (MUTTER)
BOSO
THEY'RE THE...


WHAT'S YOUR HURRY?
THE MASTER'S GONE TO WORSHIP.


IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE ALL DYING TO GET TO KNOW YOU ANYWAY.


UNTIL OUR MASTER COMES BACK...
SORRY. LOOKS LIKE OUR TIMING WAS OFF.
...MAKE YOUR-SELVES AT HOME IN THE VILLAGE.

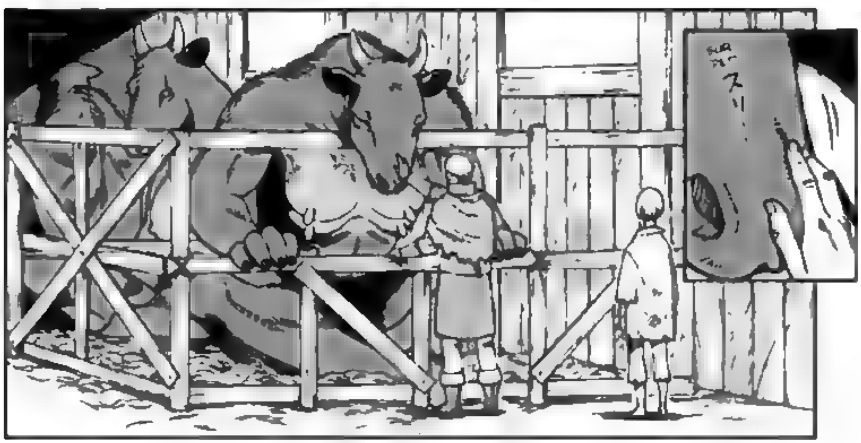

WHAT SHOULD WE SHOW YOU?
THIS VILLAGE HAS NOTHING, REALLY.
WAI (CHATTER)
WAI
These are all residents of the golden castle?
They look like normal people...
BUT ON THE OTHER HAND..
THERE AREN'T ANY ELDERLY.
YAAAY!
HUH!? YOU'D SETTLE FOR THAT?
SURE, WE CAN TAKE YOU THERE.
THEN..
...I THINK I'D LIKE TO SEE WHERE YOU RAISE MONSTERS.
I WANT TO TOUR THE FIELDS WE SAW ON THE WAY.
I'LL WAIT HERE.
I CAN'T LEAVE IZUTSUMI ON HER OWN ANYWAY.
ZAARI (SLURP) ZAARI
ME TOO
IN THAT CASE, COME INSIDE, PLEASE.


A FEMALE ??
I-IT'S A MINOTAUR!
THEY'RE OUR MILK COWS.


REGULAR LIVESTOCK WAS HARD TO GET.
AND THEY DON'T LIVE LONG
HUH? NO REAL REASON
WHY DO YOU HAVE MONSTERS AS LIVESTOCK?


MONSTERS ARE ALL OVER THE PLACE.






OVER HERE! THIS WAY!
HM! THESE ARE FINE, WELL-TENDED FIELDS.
THEY SEEM A BIT TOO LARGE, THOUGH...
DO THE VILLAGERS USE ALL OF THIS?
THERE'S A LOT OF WASTE, YEAH.
STILL, WITHOUT FIELDS, WE'D HAVE NOTHING TO DO, SO...
WE GIVE SOME TO THE ORCS
EVEN IF WE'RE JUST GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS, WE LIVE LIKE WE DID ABOVE-GROUND.
WELL, I'LL BE...
PLEASE TAKE SOME WITH YOU.


IZU-TSUMI, ARE YOU OKAY?
DOES SHE HAVE A FEVER?
PRRR...
PRRR...
...
E-EXCUSE ME...!
COULD WE TALK TO YOU FOR A LITTLE BIT?
SHE DOESN'T SEEM UN-COMFORT-ABLE.
PRRRR...


YAAY!
IF YOU'RE SURE I'LL DO, THEN...
THAT'S RIGHT! WE WANT SOMEONE FROM OUTSIDE TO WEAR THE CLOTHES WE MADE.
WE DRESS ONE ANOTHER IN THEM, BUT IT'S ALWAYS JUST US, SO IT'S BORING.
DRESSES ...?
I'M SORRY.
THEY MAY SEEM OLD-FASHIONED TO YOU, THOUGH.
OH, NO, THAT ISN'T...
KYA
RED, PERHAPS?
KYA
KYA (CHAT)
WHICH SHOULD WE TRY!?
GOLD WOULD BE NICE AS WELL.
I THINK ANY COLOR WOULD SUIT HER, BUT...
OHHHH!
THIS ISN'T REALLY WHAT I EXPECTED.
ZAN (DUM)
THESE NEXT!
AFTER A THOUSAND YEARS OF ISOLATION, I SUPPOSE FASHIONS WOULD BE DIFFERENT.


B-WAAH!
NOW, THAT'S GOOD!
GUBI (CHUG)
グビ
GUBI
グビ
I REALLY LIKE THE ASSERTIVE HOPS.
I'M PRETTY PICKY ABOUT MY DRINK, BUT...
YEAH, NOT BAD.
THAT'S GREAT TO HEAR.
WAITING FOR THE BATH
WHO COULD GET DRUNK ON WINE THAT'S LIKE WATER?
...SAY, DO YOU MAKE WINE TOO?
OH.
NICE.
I SERVE IT TO THE ORCS, AND THE RECENT STUFF...
THE HOPS WERE THEIR REQUEST.
YOU CAN'T GO WRONG WITH LIQUOR THEY LIKE.
...HAS GONE OVER PARTICULARLY WELL.
GUBI
グビ
...I SEE.
THAT'S A FINE OLD BREWERY!
WHAT GENERATION ARE YOU?
YOU MEAN AS CHIEF BREWER? I STARTED THIS WHEN I WAS SIX HUNDRED, SO I'M THE FIRST.
WE'VE BEEN MAKIN' ALE FOR FOUR HUNDRED YEARS, THOUGH, SO COMPARED WITH THAT, IT'S HAVING A ROUGH TIME
YEAH, ACTUALLY, I STARTED JUST RECENTLY.
FOUR HUNDRED YEARS!


HEY, GOOD FOR YOU.
KEEP IT TO YOURSELF.
THEY LET ME MILK A MINOTAUR !!
THEY HAVE FOUR TEATS, JUST LIKE A COW...
NOW THAT I'M LOOKING, IS THIS CUP A MONSTER FANG!?
I SEE. GRAFTING. HOW CLEVER.
A-FANG FROM-WHAT?
INCRED-IBLE!
THEY'VE COMPLETELY SUCCEEDED IN CULTIVATING MONSTERS HERE!
JUST LOOK AT THAT VAST DRYAD GARDEN.
THIS IS GONNA MAKE ME SICK...
IN ANOTHER ROOM.
WHAT TRIGGERED THAT ASSOCIATION. HUH?
SAY, WHERE ARE MARCILLE AND IZUTSUMI?
SOMEONE WENT TO GET THEM, SO THEY SHOULD BE HERE SOON.
STILL, THAT WAS QUITE THE EXPERIENCE.
GETTING TO MILK...

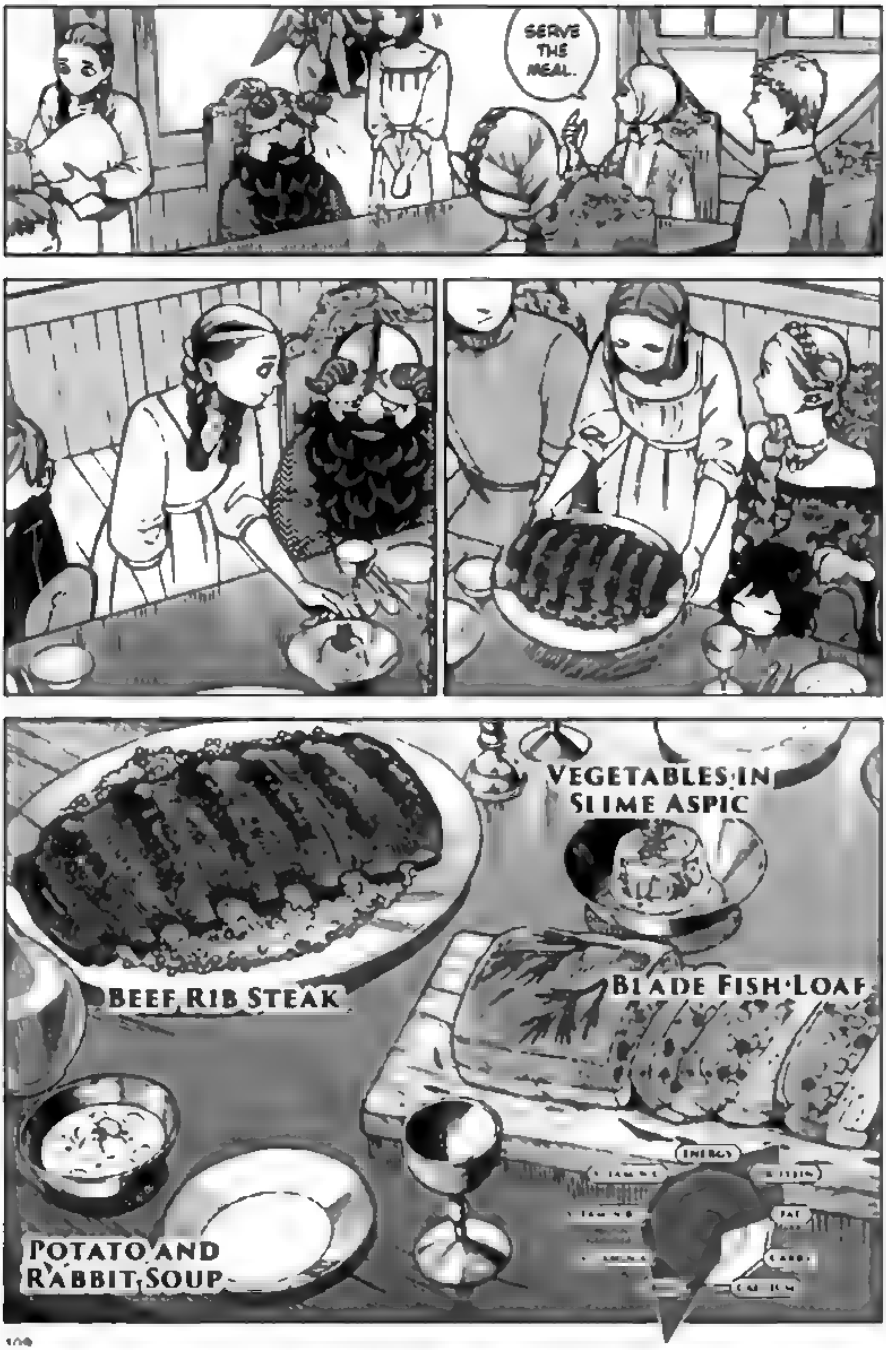

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.
E.


I...! THIS IS, UM...
WHAT ARE YOU WEARING!?
HAVING FUN, HUH!?
KOFF!
KOFF! KOFF!
I COULDN'T HELP IT! THEY ASKED ME TO.
BWA-HA!
I DID CHOOSE THE TAMEST ONE, YOU KNOW.
THE NOT-SO-TAME ONES
WHY IS IZUTSUMI SO ATTACHED TO YOU?
OH! THIS!?
PET ME MOOORE
I DON'T KNOW! FUNNY, ISN'T IT!?
MARCILLE, THAT...
WH...
WHAT?
DOKI (BADUM)


HUH!
NUH-UH.
GUH!
DOSU (WHUMP)
ドス
SHE'S ACTING LIKE A LITTLE KID...
BECAUSE SHE'S HALF MONSTER?
...RIGHT.
HEAVY...
THERE ARE LOTS OF BARRIERS CAST HERE, ONE OVER ANOTHER.
THEY MAY BE INTERFERING WITH IZUTSUMI SOMEHOW.
WHAT IS SHE SEEING?
THEY'RE CENSORING EVERYTHING THESE DAYS...
...IT HAS LOTS OF CHARACTERS I'VE NEVER SEEN, AND I COULDN'T MANAGE IT IN A DAY!
I'VE NEVER SEEN A BARRIER THAT MADE MONSTERS NON-AGGRESSIVE, THOUGH.
I WISH I COULD DECIPHER THIS, BUT...


ME TOO...
THIS IS AN AMAZING PLACE, THOUGH.
UNDER DIFFERENT CIRCUM-STANCES, I WOULDN'T MIND STAYING HERE FOREVER.
IT ISN'T MUCH, BUT WE'VE PREPARED A MEAL FOR YOU.
CHANGE INTO SOMETHING COMFORT-ABLE...
...AND THEN FOLLOW ME.
MY APOLOGIES FOR THE WAIT.


AH. WELCOME.
I'VE WANTED TO MEET YOU.
MY NAME IS YAAD.
I BELIEVE YOU KNOW OF DELGAL.
HE'S MY GRAND-FATHER.
PLEASE HAVE A SEAT.
WE CAN TALK AT OUR LEISURE...
...ABOUT WHY I CALLED YOU HERE.
DELGAL ...


SERVE THE MEAL.
VEGETABLES IN SLIME ASPIC
BEEF RIB STEAK
BLADE FISH-LOAF
POTATO AND RABBIT SOUP


MALE, FIVE YEARS OLD
AS YOUR GROUP SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED...
...IT'S MINOTAUR!
UM, WHAT IS THIS MEAT?
AH.
OUR SENSE OF TASTE HAS DULLED.
THAT'S PART OF IT, BUT WE ALSO DON'T FEEL HUNGER.
HUH?
DO YOUR PEOPLE ROUTINELY EAT MONSTERS TOO?
SOME DO, BUT...
...AS A RULE, WE DON'T EAT AT ALL.

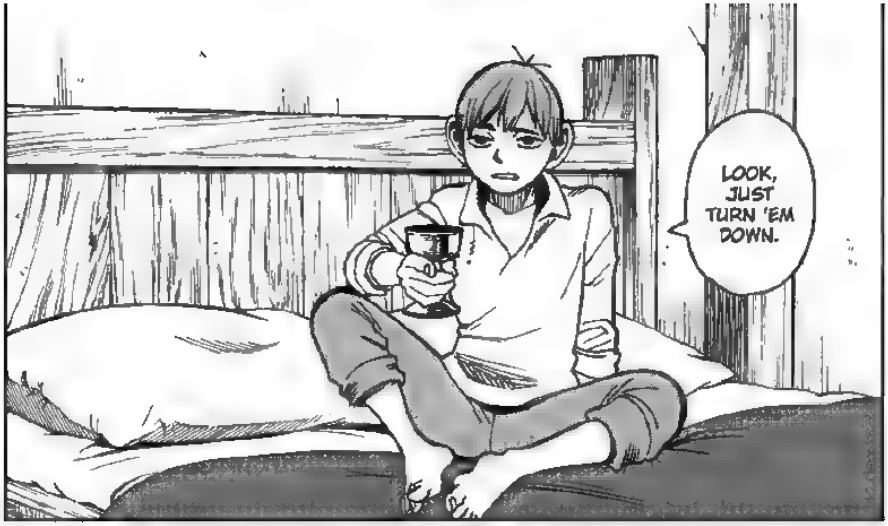

IT'S THE SPELL OF IMMORTALITY...
...THAT THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN CAST ON US.
UM...
WHY WOULD THE MAGICIAN DO THAT?
I COULDN'T SAY.
"LUNATIC" HAS BEEN AN APT DESCRIPTOR...
...EVER SINCE I CAN RECALL, AND WE'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO CONVERSE PROPERLY.
DON'T MIND ME, THOUGH.
PLEASE, EAT YOUR FILL.
EVEN IF WE HAVE NO APPETITE, IT'S NICE TO SEE OTHERS EAT.
WE CAN'T VERY WELL SAY WE DON'T WANT TO EAT THIS NOW.

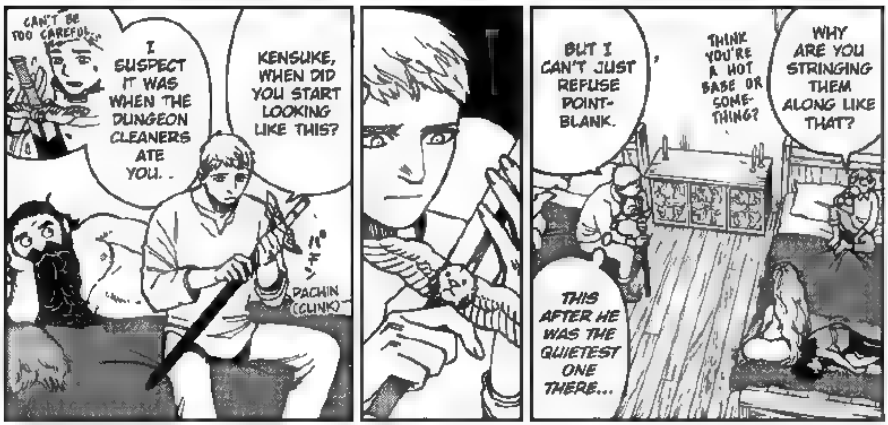

THEN HE SET OFF FOR THE WORLD ABOVE, TO FIND HELP.
MY GRAND-FATHER SPENT AGES AGONIZING OVER THE FACT THAT HE HAD TURNED...
...THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN'S FOCUS TO BLACK MAGIC.
...HE TURNED TO DUST.
MOGU CHUNGO
HE SAID HE WAS THE KING OF A RUINED KINGDOM...
...AND THAT IT WOULD ALL BELONG TO WHOEVER DEFEATED THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN. AND THEN...
FROM WHAT I HEAR...
...HE APPEARED FROM THE VILLAGE'S UNDER-GROUND GRAVE-YARD.
ABOVE-GROUND...
...WHAT DO THEY SAY OF MY GRAND-FATHER DELGAL?
HOWEVER, NONE HAVE SUCCEEDED.
THEY MERELY LOSE THEIR PHYSICAL BODIES.
MANY HAVE TRIED TO ESCAPE THE SPELL BY LEAVING THE VILLAGE.
DID HE...?
THEY AREN'T ABLE TO RETURN TO THIS PLACE.
WITHOUT BODIES, THEY GRADUALLY LOSE ALL SENSE OF SELF AND BECOME EVIL GHOSTS.
THEN HE HAS BEEN FREED FROM PAIN. THAT'S ONE CONSOLA-TION.

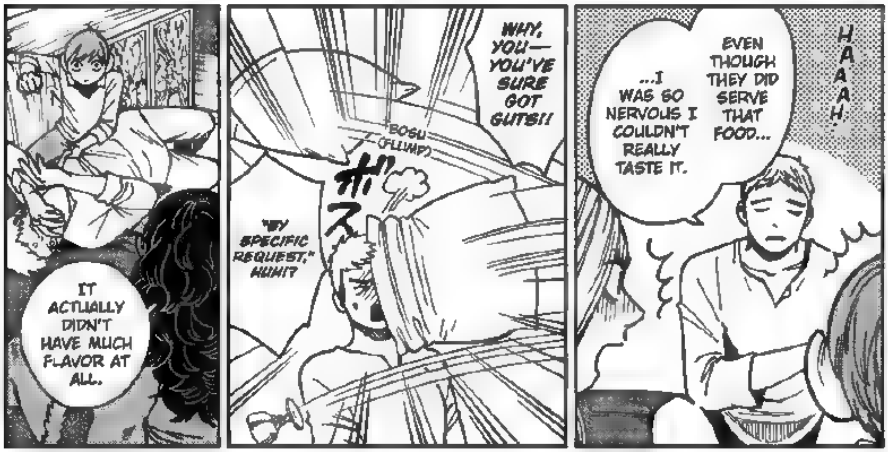

YES. WE HAVE.
NOT ONLY THAT, WE HIT THEM WITH HOLY WATER AND MADE SORBET.
I EXPECT YOU'VE ENCOUNTERED A FEW OF THEM.
THE PROPHECY.
P... PROPHECY?
...WHY DID YOU INVITE US HERE?
S-SO THEN...
WINGED?
YOU MEAN KENSUKE?
IT DOES HAVE WINGS, BUT...
"THEY WILL DEFEAT THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN AND LIBERATE US."
"ONE SHALL COME WHO BEARS A WINGED SWORD.
OHH!
WHEN DID THAT GET THERE?
THAT WINGED LION!
HUH!?
IT HAS A LION FACE ON IT!


A PROPHECY MADE MY GRANDFATHER DECIDE TO LEAVE FOR THE SURFACE AS WELL.
THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN IS HOLDING IT CAPTIVE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE DUNGEON...
...BUT IT PROPHESIES THE FUTURE THROUGH DREAMS...
...AND CONTINUES TO GUIDE US.
THE WINGED LION IS OUR TUTELARY DEITY.
"THE BEARER OF THE WINGED SWORD WILL DEFEAT THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN...
SIR LAIOS.
THERE IS MORE TO THE PROPHECY.
"...AND BECOME THE NEW KING OF THIS LAND."
NTT


THE FACT THAT IT IS THERE NOW...
...MUST HAVE BEEN PREORDAINED.
ガタ
GATA (CLATTER)
IT WAS NO ACCIDENT.
SIR LAIOS.
YOU HAVE THE WRONG PERSON.
HE JUST PICKED UP THAT SWORD BY ACCIDENT.
MAY I HAVE YOUR WORD?
PROMISE ME THAT YOU WILL DEFEAT THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN AND FREE US!
PLEASE LET ME THINK ABOUT IT.
ぶわ
BLWA (SHUDDER)
THAT'S...
UH...


LOOK, JUST TURN 'EM DOWN.


CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL...
I SUSPECT IT WAS WHEN THE DUNGEON CLEANERS ATE YOU. .
KENSUKE, WHEN DID YOU START LOOKING LIKE THIS?
PACHIN (CLINK)
BUT I CAN'T JUST REFUSE POINT-BLANK.
THINK YOU'RE A HOT BABE OR SOME-THING?
WHY ARE YOU STRINGING THEM ALONG LIKE THAT?
THIS AFTER HE WAS THE QUIETEST ONE THERE...

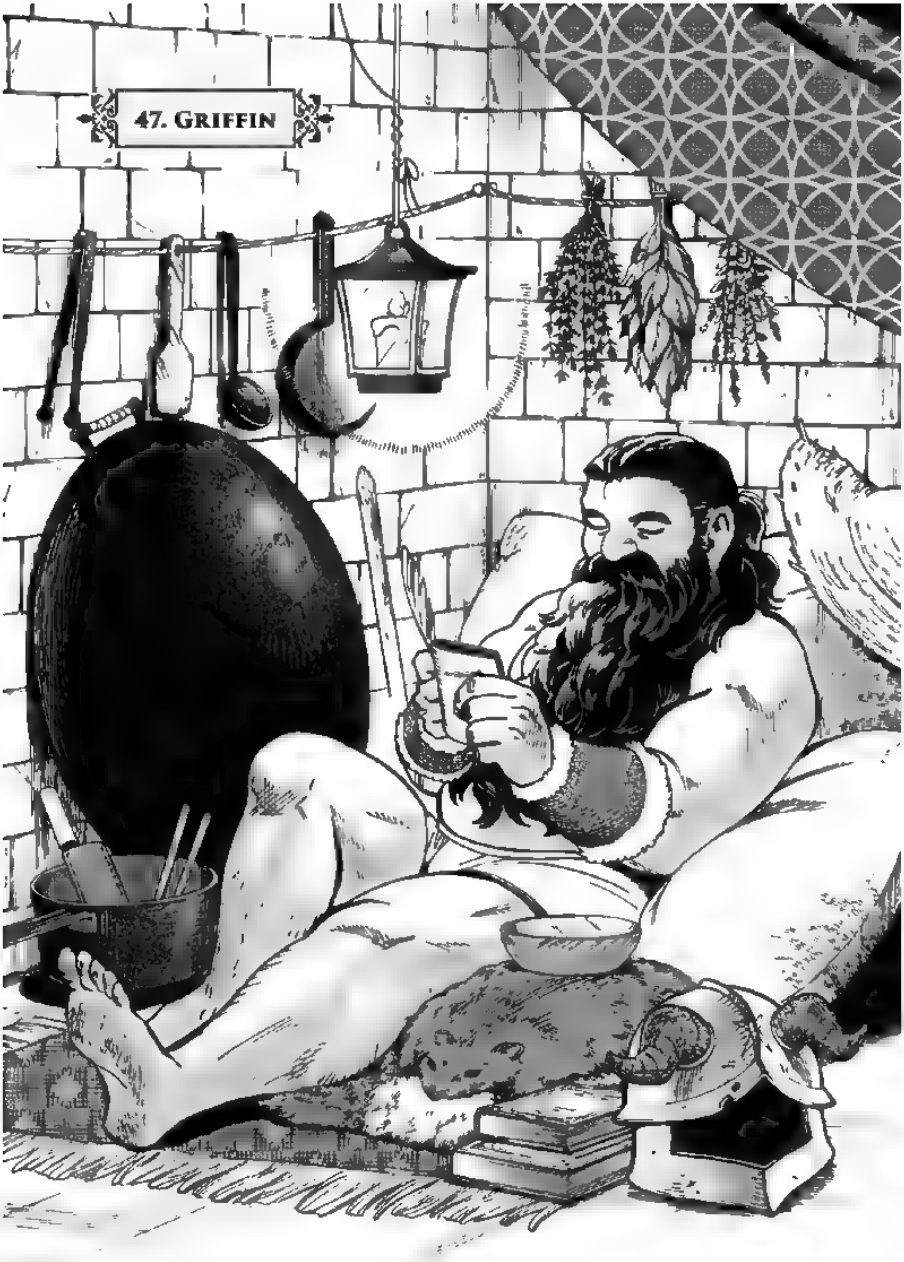

IT ACTUALLY DIDN'T HAVE MUCH FLAVOR AT ALL.
"BY SPECIFIC REQUEST," HUH!?
BOSU (FLUMP)
WHY, YOU— YOU'VE SURE GOT GUTS!!
...I WAS SO NERVOUS I COULDN'T REALLY TASTE IT.
EVEN THOUGH THEY DID SERVE THAT FOOD...
HAAAH.

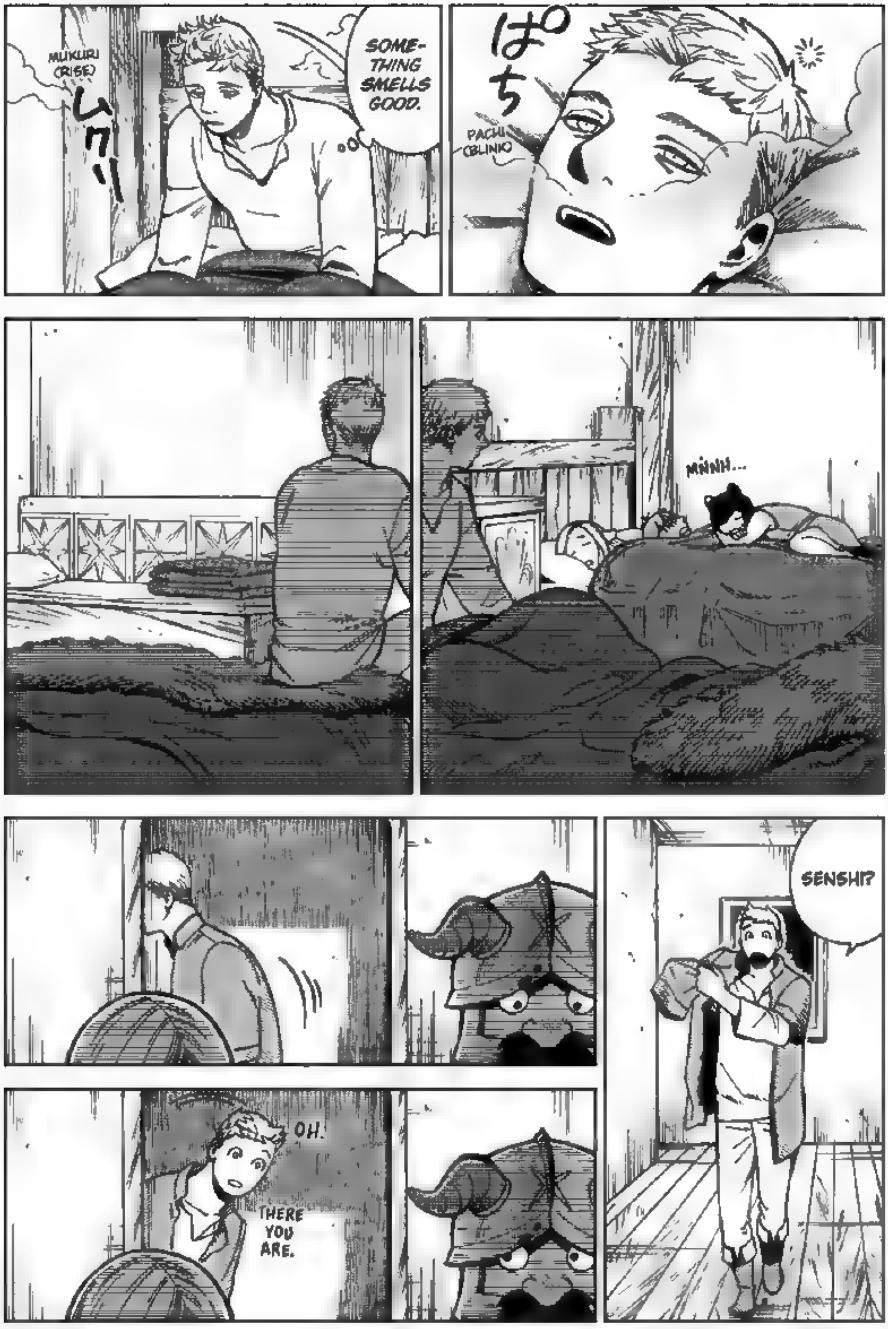

THEY DON'T REALLY NEED FIELDS OR DISHES...
...SO WHY DO THEY HAVE THEM?
I WAS THINKING.
THEY SAID THEY DON'T NEED TO EAT.
THAT'S PROBABLY WHY THEY CAN'T COOK WELL.
WHY HAVE THEY KEPT THEM...
...TENDED AND MAINTAINED FOR A THOUSAND YEARS?
.....
I IMAGINE IT'S BECAUSE THEY DO NEED THEM.
IN ORDER TO HOLD ON TO THEIR SANITY.


WELL. SLEEP ON IT FOR A NIGHT.
I'M TURNING IN.
HUH?
WHAT DID I SAY AGAIN...?
LAIOS.
I REMEMBER WHAT YOU TOLD THE ORC CHIEFTAIN.
COME ON. SCOOT OVER
SLEEP ON THE FLOOR?!
HIS HANDS WERE COLD...
I DON'T WANT TO BE BY MYSELF.
SLEEP IN THE ROOM THEY GAVE YOU.
IZU-TSUMI'S ACTING A LITTLE FUNNY TOO.
HM?
...CAN I SLEEP HERE TOO?
GU (GRIP)
CHAPTER 46: THE END

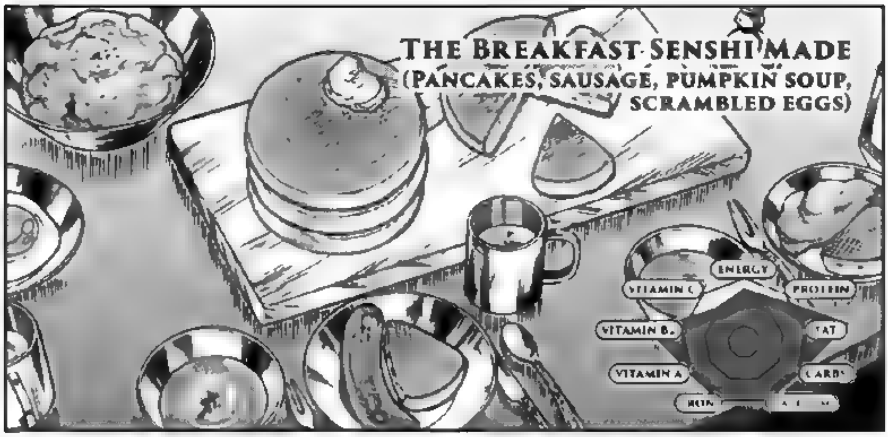


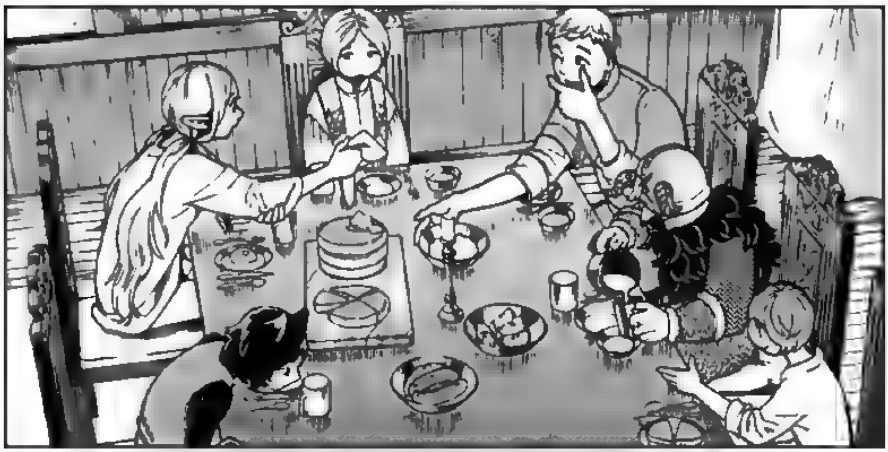


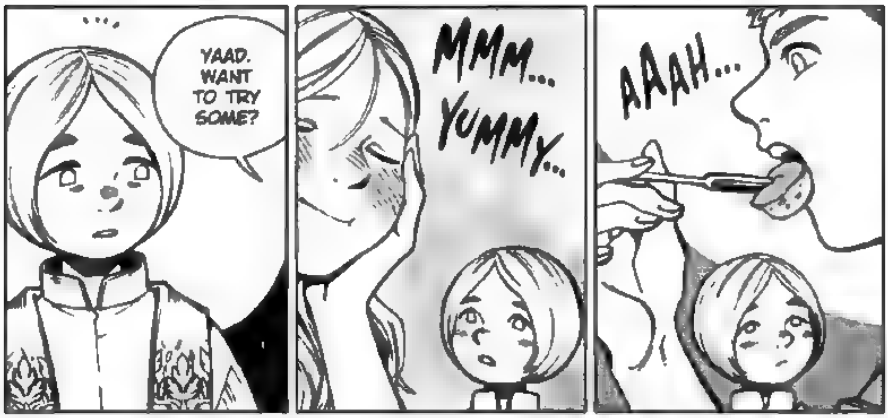

47. GRIFFIN


MUKURI (RISE)
ムクリ
SOMETHING SMELLS GOOD.
ぱち
PACHI (BLINK)
MMNH...
SENSHI?
OH!
THERE YOU ARE.

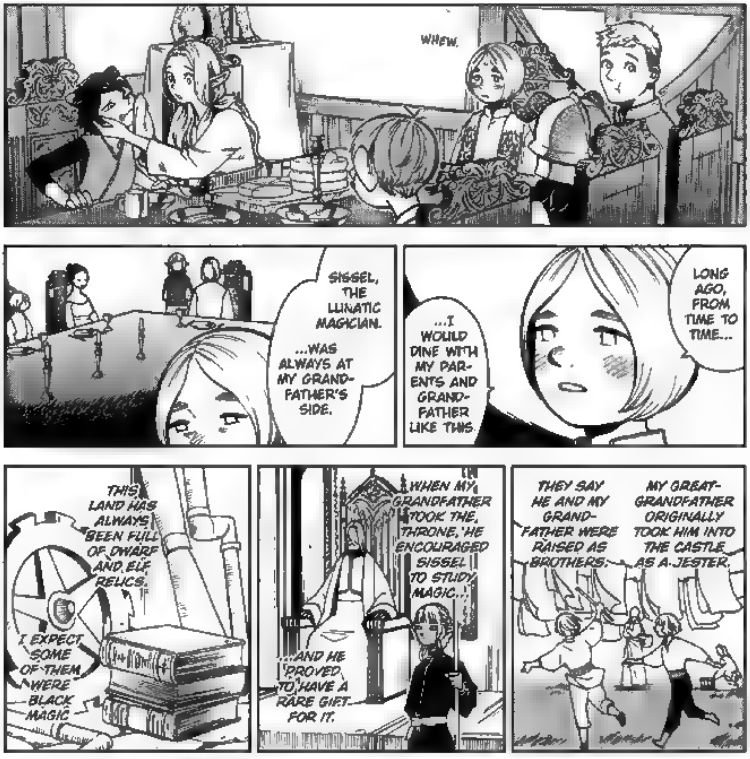

HUP!
PON (TOSS)
ぽん
HUP!
HUP!
HUP!
くるっ
KURU
KURU
くるっ
くるっ
KURU (FLIP)
PACHI (CLAP)
PACHI
PACHI
PACHI
ぱちぱちぱち
POFUN (PLOMP)
ふぁっ
ぽっ
HEY, LAIOS. YOU'RE AWAKE, HM?
GOOD MORNING.
YOU MADE BREAK-FAST?
JUST FINISHED.
SENSHI IS A VERY GOOD COOK.
YES, HE IS.
SENSHI'S INCREDI-BLE!


THE BREAKFAST SENSHI MADE
(PANCAKES, SAUSAGE, PUMPKIN SOUP, SCRAMBLED EGGS)
ENERGY
VITAMIN C
PROTEIN
VITAMIN B
FAT
VITAMIN A
CARBS
IRON

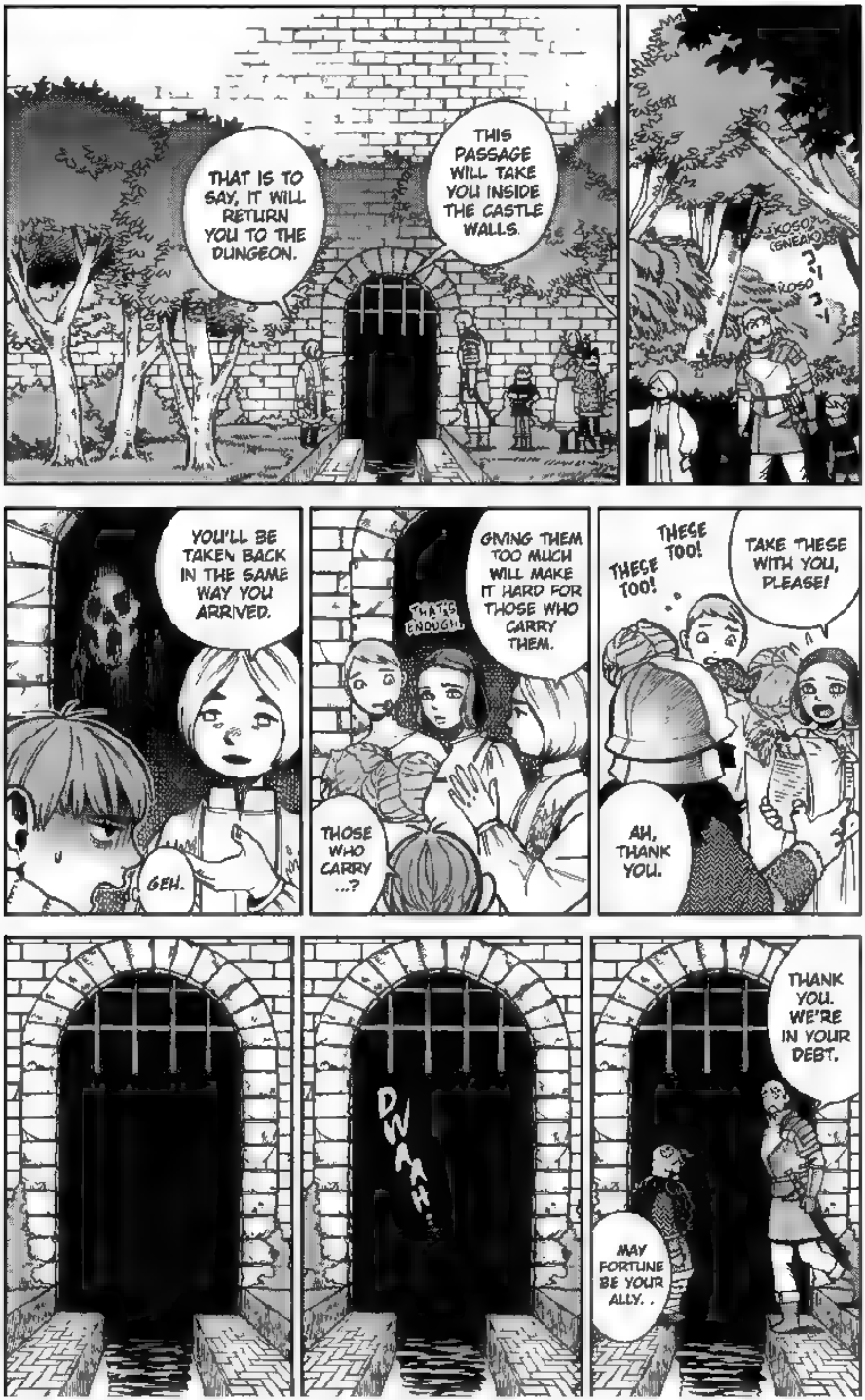



YAAD. WANT TO TRY SOME?
MMM... YUMMY...
AAAH...

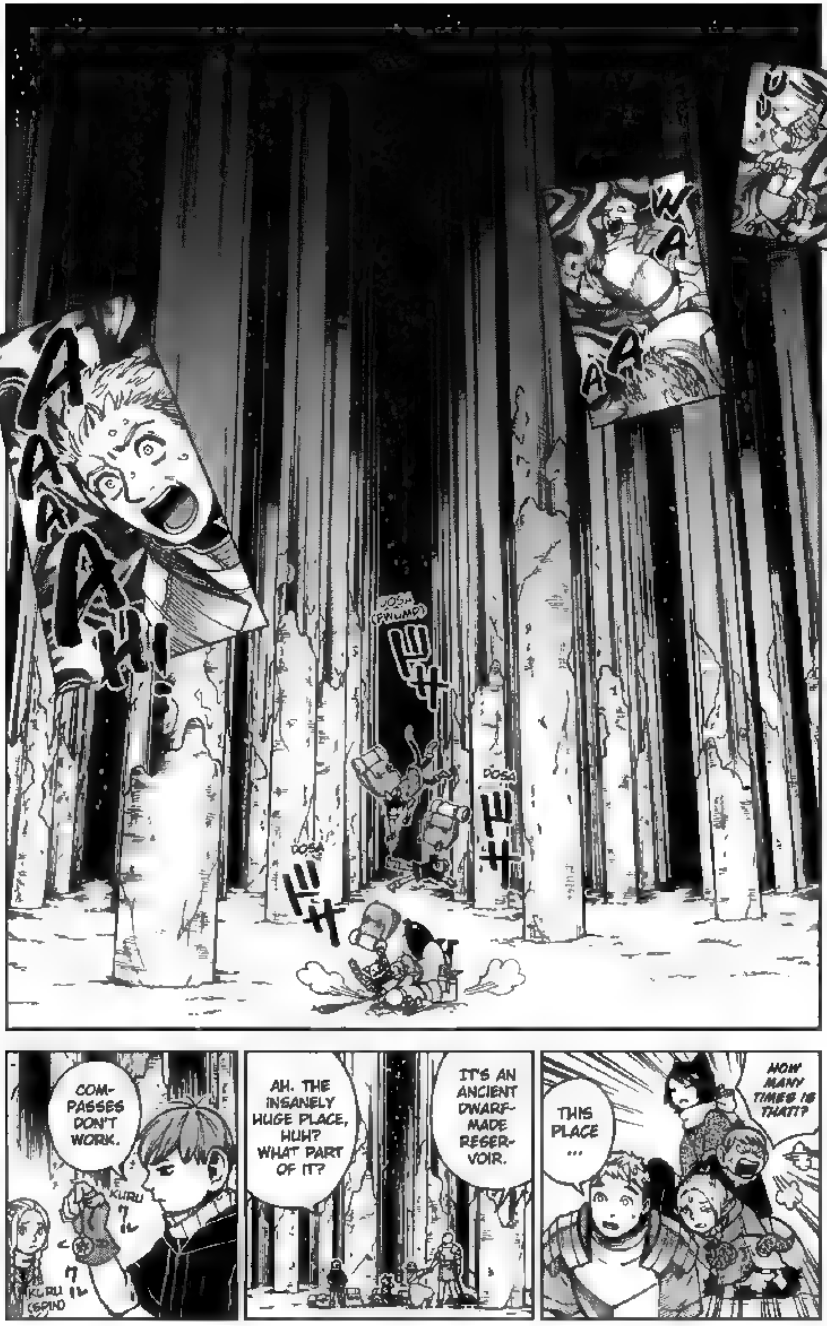

NURI (SLATHER)
ぬり
NURI
ぬり
HERE.
BUT I CAN'T TASTE...
KIKO (GLUT)
キコ
キコ
KIKO
MOKU (CHEW)
もく
もく
MOKU
MMF!
IF YOU DON'T EXERCISE IT, IT WITHERS.
YOUR SENSE OF TASTE IS LIKE A MUSCLE.
START BY ENJOYING TEXTURE.
YOUR SENSES OF SIGHT AND TOUCH SEEM TO WORK.
ENJOYING...
ALL RIGHT...
MOGO
モゴ
MOGO (MUNCH)
モゴ
...IT'S WARM AND SOFT.


WHEW.
SISSEL, THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN.
...WAS ALWAYS AT MY GRAND-FATHER'S SIDE.
...I WOULD DINE WITH MY PAR-ENTS AND GRAND-FATHER LIKE THIS.
LONG AGO, FROM TIME TO TIME...
THIS LAND HAS ALWAYS BEEN FULL OF DWARF AND ELF RELICS.
I EXPECT SOME OF THEM WERE BLACK MAGIC
...WHEN MY GRANDFATHER TOOK THE THRONE, HE ENCOURAGED SISSEL TO STUDY MAGIC...
...AND HE PROVED TO HAVE A RARE GIFT FOR IT.
THEY SAY ME AND MY GRAND-FATHER WERE RAISED AS BROTHERS.
MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER ORIGINALLY TOOK HIM INTO THE CASTLE AS A JESTER.
OBSESSED WITH POWER, SISSEL BEGAN TO GO MAD...
...AND IN THE END, HE CAST A SPELL OF IMMORTALITY OVER THE KINGDOM.


WE HAD A HARD TIME HELPING MY GRANDFATHER STEAL AWAY.
SOME WERE EXECUTED ON SUSPICION OF ASSISTING.
THAT'S NOT EVEN POSSIBLE.
HE ISN'T THE SORT YOU CAN HAVE A PROPER DISCUSSION WITH.
GRK!
ACTUALLY, WE'D LIKE TO TALK TO HER—UH, HIM.
WHERE CAN WE MEET HIM?
TALK !?
THE MAGICIAN'S EYES ARE GATHERING. THEY'VE CAUGHT WIND OF THE CHANGE IN THE VILLAGE.
THE MAGICIAN HIMSELF WILL BE HERE BEFORE LONG.
HAAAH...
...JUST MEETING HIM IS SIMPLE.
LOOK OUTSIDE.
...GET HELP FROM THE WINGED LION TRAPPED IN THE DEPTHS OF THE DUNGEON.
IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO CURB THE MAGICIAN'S POWER THEN.
BUT WE REALLY NEED TO DO THIS.
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'LL BE ABLE TO TALK, BUT...
THE DUNGEON IS LIKE HIS HANDS AND FEET.
YOU KNOW HOW TERRIBLE ITS POWER IS.


THIS PASSAGE WILL TAKE YOU INSIDE THE CASTLE WALLS.
THAT IS TO SAY, IT WILL RETURN YOU TO THE DUNGEON.
KOSO (SNEAK)
KOSO
YOU'LL BE TAKEN BACK IN THE SAME WAY YOU ARRIVED.
GEH.
GIVING THEM TOO MUCH WILL MAKE IT HARD FOR THOSE WHO CARRY THEM.
THAT'S ENOUGH.
THOSE WHO CARRY ...?
THESE TOO!
THESE TOO!
TAKE THESE WITH YOU, PLEASE!
AH, THANK YOU.
DWAH...
THANK YOU. WE'RE IN YOUR DEBT.
MAY FORTUNE BE YOUR ALLY. .


HAAH...
I'D LIKE TO THINK SO...
...ARE THEY TRULY THE ONES?
I KNOW I SHOULDN'T SAY THIS, BUT...
ZOKU SHUDDER
ZUU
O.OOMO
WHO...
...WERE YOU TALKING TO, JUST NOW?
SI-
SISSEL ...
YAAD.


AAAAH!
WA
AA
DOSH (SPRUMP)
DOSA
DOSA


COM-PASSES DON'T WORK.
KURU
KURU (SPIN)


AH. THE INSANELY HUGE PLACE, HUH? WHAT PART OF IT?
IT'S AN ANCIENT DWARF-MADE RESER-VOIR.


THIS PLACE ...
HOW MANY TIMES IS THAT?


BLARGH.
CHIRA (GLANCE)
DWARFS...
DWARFS' SEMICIRCULAR CANALS ARE SENSITIVE. SO THIS ALWAYS HAPPENS.
TELEPORTATION SICK, SENSHI?
DWARFS DO NASTY STUFF LIKE THIS, DON'T THEY?
I HEAR IT'S THE REMAINS OF A DEFENSIVE POST TOO.
HEY, THERE'S STILL GOLD LEFT ON THIS!
WHERE AM I?
I'D THINK THEY'D GET MANA SICKNESS AS WELL.
DO GNOMES GET IT EASILY TOO?
ARE YOU OKAY?
REST THERE FOR A BIT.
WE'RE GOING TO GO LOOK AROUND.
PET ME MOOORE.
OH. ARE YOU BACK?
HUH?
WH-WHA...?


I'D LIKE YOU TO GO RECORD THE SYMBOLS ON THE COLUMNS AROUND US.
THEY'LL TELL US OUR ROUGH LOCATION.
MM? YEAH.
THERE IS SOMETHING THERE, HUH?
CHIL.
CAN YOU SEE THIS MARK HERE?
WELL...
IT JUST MEANS NOT ALL DWARFS HAVE AN EXCELLENT SENSE OF DIRECTION.
THESE PLACES ALWAYS HAVE THEM.
THEY'RE LIKE A CODE.
...HOW DO YOU KNOW A THING LIKE THAT?


HM. THEY'RE BACK.
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE IN THE SOUTH-EAST...
I'VE GOT IT.
WE MAY HAVE FOUND FALIN!
SENSHI FIGURED OUT WHERE WE—
THAT WAS A [illegible] TRIP.
BIG NEWS! BIG NEWS!!



I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE A GRIFFIN OR SOMETHING.

I'M NOT POSITIVE, BUT...

AH!

RIGHT!?

HMM.

I'M SURE OF IT.

THE SILHOUETTE WAS THE SAME.

YOU SAID THESE ARE FALIN'S TRACKS?

SHE SAW US AND RAN AWAY, BUT...

DO (BAD...)

FALIN

GRIFFIN

IT'S A MONSTER THAT'S HALF BIRD, HALF LION.

AND GRIFFINS ARE...?

I'VE NEVER HEARD OF GRIFFINS APPEARING IN THIS DUNGEON.

...!?

ANYWAY, WE'VE GOT TO HURRY AND LOOK FOR HER...

IT SMELLS LIKE ANIMAL.

KUN

KUN (SNIFF)

KUN

DO I LOOK LIKE A DOG?

DO YOU RECOGNIZE THE SCENT?


HRM.
WELL, UH...
NO? WHY NOT?
BUT IT MIGHT BE FALIN.
NO.
I, ERM...
OH! THOSE.
WHY DO YOU HATE A MONSTER YOU'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN?
I HATE GRIFFINS.
I'VE SEEN THOSE BEFORE. THEY'RE TOXIC OR SOMETHING.
MUSH-ROOMS ??
I'VE NEVER SEEN THOSE MUSH-ROOMS.
I WANT TO COOK THEM.
WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T EAT THEM.
UP!
W-WAIT.
DON'T DO IT.
HUH!?
WISH! (CLING)
ENOUGH! LET'S GO!


ガッ


BA-LAM
I KNEW IT! IT'S A GRIFFIN!
THAT'S SO COOL!
I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE BE-FORE!
A GRIFFIN...
.....
GIRI (GRIT)
ALL THAT FUSS FOR NOTHING !?
WHY, YOU...

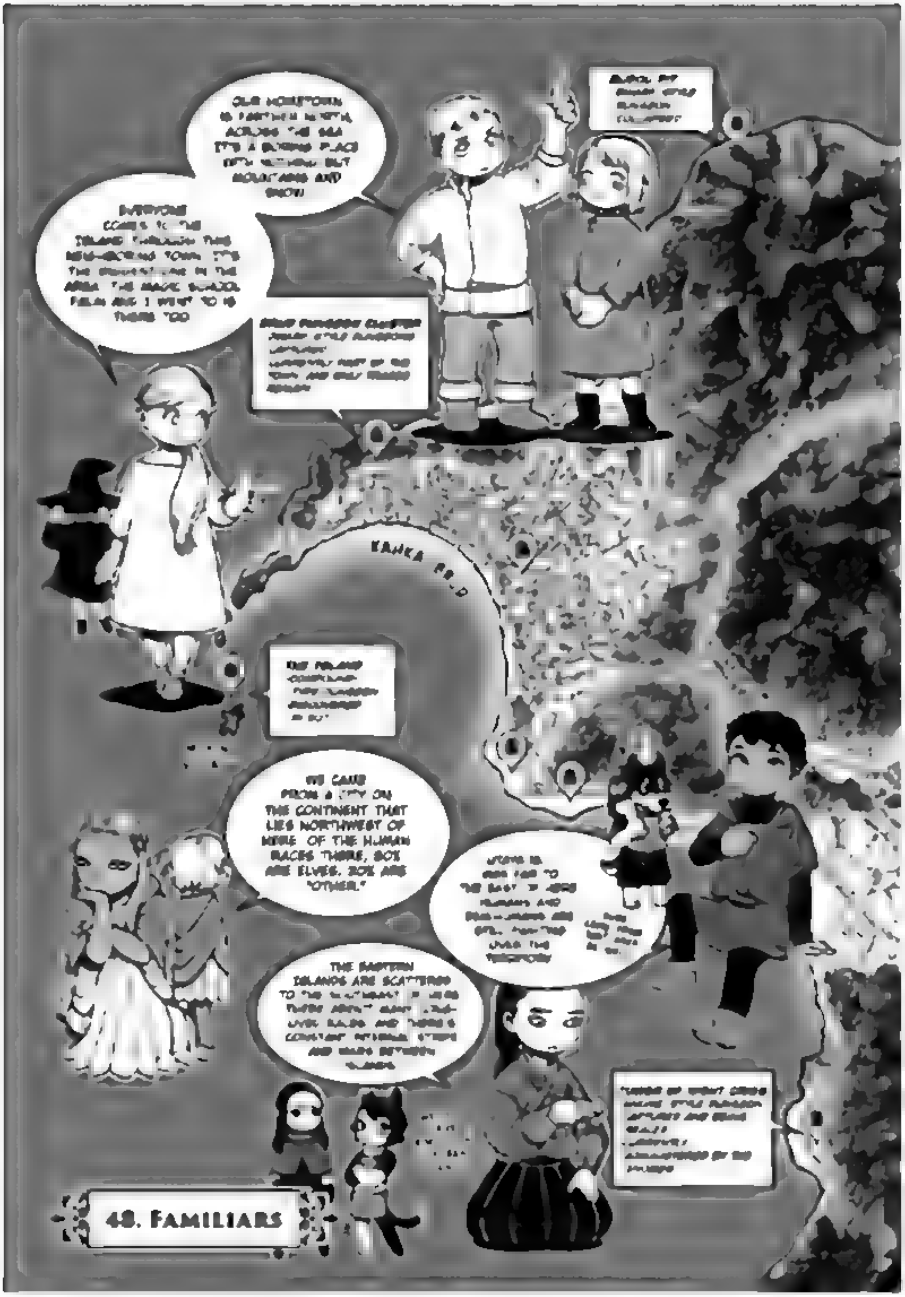

トン
TON (TMP)
HERE IT COMES AGAIN!
GET BACK!
YEEEEK!!
ダッ
DA (DASH)
YEE!
YEE!
YEE!
YEE!


SEN-SHII?
DON'T TURN YOUR BACK ON IT AND RUN!!
RGH!
MY AIM IS...


DWAAAH!!
SENSHI!!






OUR HOMETOWN IS FARTHER NORTH, ACROSS THE SEA. IT'S A BEAUTIFUL PLACE WITH NOTHING BUT MOUNTAINS AND SNOW!
EVERYONE COMES TO THE ISLAND THROUGH THIS NEIGHBORING TOWN. IT'S THE STARTING POINT IN THE AREA. THE MAGIC SCHOOL FELLAS AND I WENT TO IT THERE, TOO.
KANKA ROAD
WE CAME FROM A CITY ON THE CONTINENT THAT LIES NORTHWEST OF HERE. OF THE HUMAN RACES THERE, 80% ARE ELVES, 20% ARE "OTHER."
THE EASTERN ISLANDS ARE SCATTERED TO THE
48. FAMILIARS


SENSHI!!
W-
WH-
DID SENSHI HAVE A WEAPON WITH HIM!?
IT HAPPENED SO FAST I COULDN'T DO A THING.
NO. HE'S UN-ARMED.
WE HAVE TO GO AFTER HIM, NOW.
NOT GOOD.


MMOO
ゴォォ
……


MARCILLE, ISN'T THERE ANY WAY!?


IF WE TOOK HIM SOMEPLACE HIGH, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING.
UNLESS WE WAIT LIKE THAT IN AN ATTACK!
WE'LL NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN.
WE WON'T EVEN FIND HIS CORPSE.


…SHOULD WE CLIMB EVERY PILLAR TO LOOK FOR HIM?
I'M NOT DOING IT.


FAMILIARS? YOU'RE SUMMONING MONSTERS?
IT'S MORE LIKE "MAKING" THAN "SUMMONING."


UMMM…
UMMMM…
UMMMM…


I'LL SEARCH WITH FAMILIARS.


THE TERMS ARE COMPLICATED ...
...AND THE LORD OF THE DUNGEON'S LIKELY TO NOTICE, SO THAT'S OUT.
ONE— CONTROL EXISTING SPIRITS OR MONSTERS.
THERE ARE THREE TYPES OF SUMMONING.
WE'LL DO THAT THIS TIME.
THREE— MAKE THEM FROM SCRATCH.
THAT SOUNDS LIKE THE HARDEST ONE.
TOSU (SHUNK)
TWO— TURN PLANTS OR ANIMALS INTO MONSTERS.
WE CAN'T DO THAT ONE EITHER.
IT TAKES A HUGE AMOUNT OF TIME AND PREP WORK.
I'LL GET THE MAGIC CIRCLE READY.
GO PUT ALL THE MEAT WE HAVE INTO THE POT.
BUTSU (SNIP)
IT IS IF YOU'RE MAKING WHOLLY INDEPENDENT CREATURES..
...BUT WE JUST NEED THESE TO MOVE A LITTLE.


IT WOULD BE NICE TO HAVE A LITTLE MORE..
THAT'S ALL?
HMM... THEY'LL BOOST THE CALORIE COUNT, AT LEAST.
GO PUT THEM IN.
ALSO VEGGIES.
WE'VE GOT CHEESE AND EGGS, THOUGH.
THERE WASN'T ANY.
.....
WHAT KIND OF MONSTER ARE YOU MAKING?
GOWA (FIDGET)
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO CONTROL IT?
GOWA
GOWA
TEACH ME TOO—
SO THAT'S A THING, HUH?
TAKE THE PROPER STEPS AND GET YOURSELF CERTIFIED TO HANDLE DANGEROUS MAGIC FIRST!!
NO!


WHAT'S HIS OBSESSION WITH FOOD ABOUT?
HOW'D HE JOIN YOUR GROUP?
.....
HEY.
WHAT IS THAT OLD GUY ANYWAY?
BUT...
NONE OF US WANTS TO TALK ABOUT OUR PRIVATE LIVES.
WE JUST HAVEN'T HAD THE CHANCE, I GUESS.
HUH!?
WAIT— DON'T TELL ME YOU DON'T KNOW!
AFTER YOU ACTED SO CHUMMY!?
TEN YEARS!
HAS IT EVEN BEEN HERE THAT LONG?
BUT THEY ONLY DISCOVERED THE DUNGEON SIX YEARS AGO.
THAT'S, UH...
REMEMBER WHAT HE SAID BACK WHEN WE MET HIM?
ABOUT HOW HE'D BEEN COOKING MONSTERS HERE FOR OVER A DECADE?
...IF I SAID I WASN'T CURIOUS, I'D BE LYING.
LOTS OF WHAT SENSHI DOES IS ODD.


...I THINK THAT LAST ONE'S A FALSE CHARGE.
NO.
DRYAD. HAY FEVER SHOULDN'T HAPPEN THE FIRST TIME EITHER.
THE WAY HE'S ABNORMALLY SCARED OF MONSTERS ON A FLOOR HE CAN'T HAVE BEEN TO BEFORE.
AND HE INSISTS ON TREATING ME LIKE A KID.
ALSO ...
. .THE WAY HE HAS POTS AND KNIVES MADE OF VALUABLE METALS.
THE FACT THAT HE READS AN ANCIENT DWARF CODE.
A CHILD.
BUT THAT'S ONLY IN A FEW REGIONS, LIKE THE EAST
IF HE'S LIVED HERE FOR TEN YEARS, HE SHOULD KNOW.
THEY DON'T REALIZE HALF-FOOTS ARE A RACE.
THEY ASSUME WE'LL TURN INTO TALL-MEN OR DWARFS WHEN WE GROW UP.
PEOPLE WHO DON'T KNOW US MAKE THAT MISTAKE A LOT.
I NOTICED WHEN IZUTSUMI YANKED MY CHAIN ABOUT IT.
ONCE WE RESCUE HIM...
...LET'S ASK HIM TO INTRODUCE HIMSELF AGAIN.
HM...?
COULD SENSHI MAYBE...
...NOT BE FROM ABOVE-GR—

BOKO (GLUP)
BOKO
WAH!
BOSHU (BWOOSH)


IS IT DONE?
IT SHOULD BE.
LET'S OPEN THE LID.
SHUU (HISSS)
SHUU
DOKUN
DOKUN (BADUM)
DOKUN




SFX: BUTSU (MUTTER) BUTSU


WE'LL LOOK FOR FOREIGN OBJECTS BY FOLLOWING THE DUNGEON CLEANERS AND SPIRITS.
FOLLOW "ME."
OK
WHAT, YOU'RE NOT COMING WITH?
GAKU (TREMBLE)
GAKU
Y-YOU THINK I CAN WALK WHEN I'M FLYING!?
NO! I'LL FALL! I'LL FALL!!
BATA (KICK)
BATA
AGH!
IF WE MOVE, I'LL REALLY FALL...
HUH? WHAT?
COME ON, MARCILLE
I'M SCARED!
PUT YOUR ARMS AROUND HERE...
I'LL CARRY HER.
IZUTSUMI AND CHIL, CARRY MY PACK, PLEASE.
HFF... HFF... HFF...
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO BE?
SHE SAYS IT'S EASIEST TO RELAX THIS WAY.


I BET THAT'S WHERE ...
THAT COLUMN!
DUNGEON CLEANERS ARE SWARMING THERE.
HERE
I FOUND HIM! HE'S STAKED OUT HIGH UP ON THE PILLAR.
SO GRIFFINS IMPALE THEIR PREY.
SENSHI!
DADAAAN, (DA-DUUUN)


CAREFUL, MARCILLE.
GRIFFINS HAVE VERY SHARP EYES.
UMM...
HOW WILL WE GET YOU DOWN?
A FLY...?
DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?
BZZ
BZZ (SFX)
WE'RE HERE TO SAVE YOU, SENSHI!
HAH!
...IT WILL ALREADY BE WATCHING YOU.
BY THE TIME YOU NOTICE IT...


THEIR WINGS ARE POWERFUL. THEIR LITHE BODIES ARE AGILE AND MANEUVERABLE
THEIR BEAK AND TALONS ARE SHARP TOO.
OUTWITTING ONE WILL BE NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE.
GRIFFINS' BODIES ARE VERY FUNCTIONAL.
UU!
BIKUN
...I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING ANYMORE.
THERE ARE NO "EMPTY FLOURISHES," YOU SEE
IT'S LIKE I SAID BEFORE.
LIVING THINGS NEED THE FORMS THEY HAVE.
NI GRIND
LAIOS...
...WHAT SHAPE WOULD MAKE IT A MATCH FOR A GRIFFIN?


DO WE REALLY NEED THAT HORN?
STREAMLINED BODIES HAVE LOWER AIR RESISTANCE.
THIS SHOULD MAKE IT FASTER.
KONE (KNEAD)
こね
こね
KONE
REMEMBER THE WYVERNS THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN USED?
THEY WERE AS SWIFT AS ARROWS.
LET'S TRY FOR A SHAPE LIKE THAT.
PA (RELEASE)
はっ
USE THIS ONE FOR STARTERS.
SEE HOW IT FLIES.


THE WAY IT MOVES IS...
THIS WILL WORK!
I'LL DISTRACT THE GRIFFIN WHILE SENSHI CLIMBS DOWN!
THE REST OF YOU, GET READY FOR COMBAT AND BACK ME UP!!
ALL RIGHT, SENSHI.
USE THIS ROPE!
MAYBE THE SENSE OF ONENESS MATTERS?
...WHY'S SHE DOING THAT?
DATA
DATA


GOOD. AND NOW...
ZOKU (SHUDDER)
IT'S FAST—
BUON! (WHOOSH)
I'LL DRAW THE GRIFFIN AWAY!
COME ON, COME WITH ME!

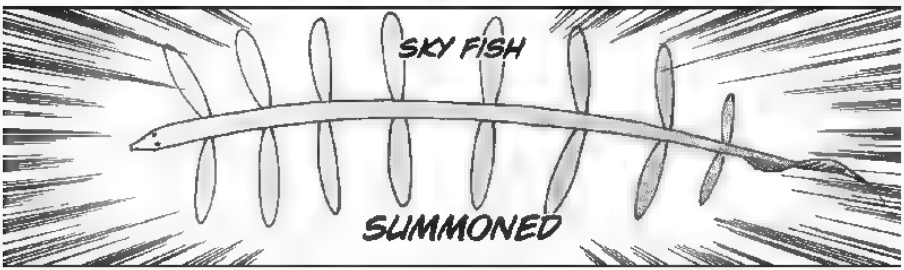

I'LL GO UNDER ITS BELLY...
RUN (OOOH)
...THEN HEAD BACK TO THE GROUND—


BO (BOOM)
BUKYU (DISPIRITED)
GAKUN (SLUMP)
GHK...
IT GOT ME.
...
?
IT'S NO GOOD.
I JUST CAN'T COMPETE.
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?


TWO-HEADED DRAGON
SPITS FIRE
SPITS ICE
ADD ANOTHER HEAD!! IT'LL BE CAPABLE OF MORE, AND IT'S BOUND TO BE STRONG!
.....
WE'LL ADD MORE HORNS HERE...
...GIVE IT ALL ITS FANGS AND SHARP CLAWS!
COVER ITS BODY WITH SCALES, AND—
ALL RIGHT! LET ME HANDLE THIS!!!
I'LL MAKE IT STRONGER! TOUGHER!!
NO.
...OR TO DEFEND?
HOW DO WE WIN A FIGHT WITH A GRIFFIN?
DO WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO ATTACK...
IT DOESN'T NEED CLAWS OR FANGS.
MY GIGA TWO-HEADED FLAME ICE DRAGON!
I TOLD YOU I WERE OVER THAT STUFF ALREADY.
SU (GULP)
GUSHAA (SQUISH)
AAAAAH!
しゃあ


FASTER.
MORE FLEXIBLE. BEAUTIFUL.
WHAT I NEED IS...
...THE RESOLUTION AND EGO...
...THAT I, WILL GIVE BIRTH TO A CREATURE WITH THE SOLE PURPOSE OF SAVING SENSHI!!!
... PRODUCED A MIRACLE.
YOUR NAME IS...
...HER PRAYERS...
JUST THEN, MARCILLE'S INTENT THOUGHTS...


SILVER WINGS THAT RACE THROUGH THE HEAVENS...


SKY FISH
SUMMONED


ヒィン
BIN (TENSE)
ふわあ
FUWAA (FLOAT)
ALL RIGHT! GO!
IT'S FINE THIS WAY!!
REALLY UNCOOL
BOSO (MUTTER)
THAT'S ...!

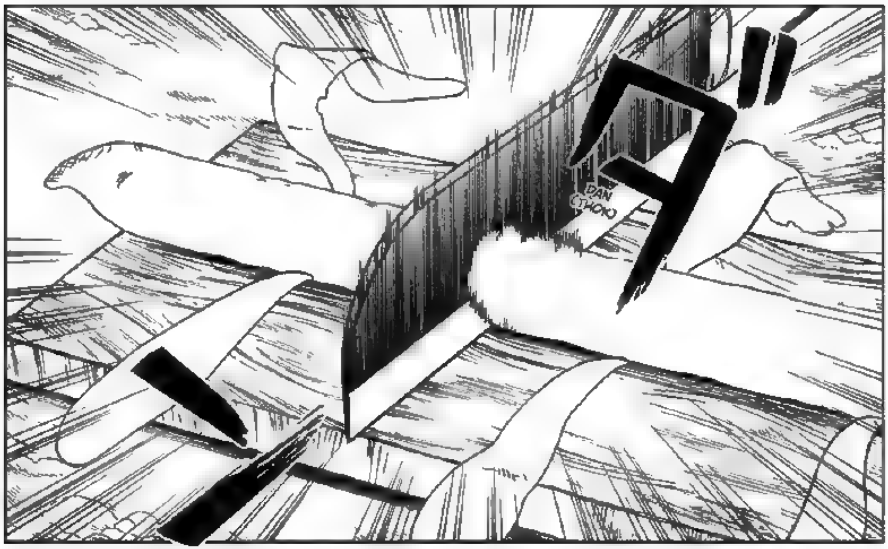

FAST!
THE WAY IT MOVES IS CREEPY!
(BYUN CLIP)
EVERYBODY, GET READY!
WE'RE GOING ALL-OUT!
WAAAGH!
KUNE
KUNE (WRIGGLE)
KUNE
SHE'S DOING HER BEST, THAT'S WHAT.
SERIOUSLY, WHAT IS UP WITH HER!?


(CHI SHIK)
BEEP!
CAN'T STEER ...!
I'LL GET IT THIS TIME.
I...
BASA (FLAP)


A SHARP REVERSE, AND...
...PUNCH THROUGH!

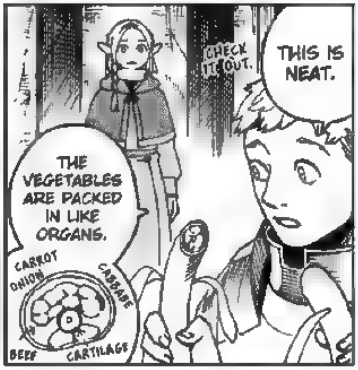

GRAWK!!
ヒィィ
ヒィィ


OH...
KYORO GLANCE
キョロ
キョロ
WHEW
たたたっ
TA (TUP) TA TA
SKY FISH...
ぐぅ
GU (SHFF)
THANK YOU...
YOU DID VERY WELL.


DAN
CHOKO


HUH? DID YOU STILL NEED IT?
NO, BUT—!!

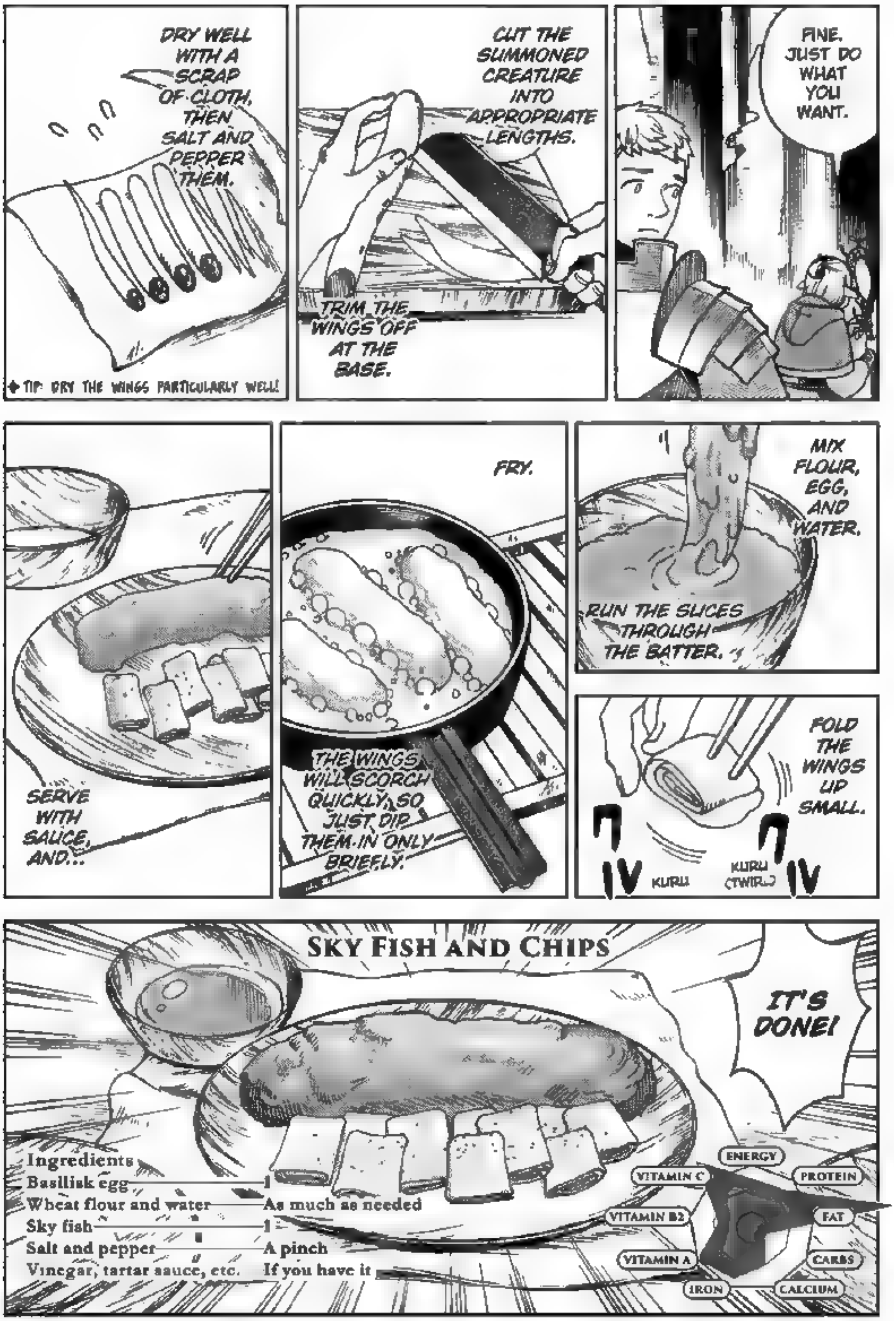

DON
(SHOVE)
AAH!!


CHECK IT OUT.
THIS IS NEAT.
THE VEGETABLES ARE PACKED IN LIKE ORGANS.
CARROT
ONION
CABBAGE
BEEF
CARTILAGE




MARCILLE, THEIR LIVES ARE OVER.
EATING THEIR BODIES IS A WAY TO HONOR THEIR MEMORY.


YOU OKAY, SENSHI?
MM.


DRY WELL WITH A SCRAP OF CLOTH, THEN SALT AND PEPPER THEM.
TIP: DRY THE WINGS PARTICULARLY WELL!
CUT THE SUMMONED CREATURE INTO APPROPRIATE LENGTHS.
TRIM THE WINGS OFF AT THE BASE.
FINE. JUST DO WHAT YOU WANT.
SERVE WITH SAUCE, AND...
FRY.
THE WINGS WILL SCORCH QUICKLY, SO JUST DIP THEM IN ONLY BRIEFLY.
MIX FLOUR, EGG, AND WATER.
RUN THE SLICES THROUGH THE BATTER.
FOLD THE WINGS UP SMALL.
KURU
KURU (TWIRL)
SKY FISH AND CHIPS
IT'S DONE!
Ingredients
Basilisk egg — 1
Wheat flour and water — As much as needed
Sky fish — 1
Salt and pepper — A pinch
Vinegar, tartar sauce, etc. — If you have it
ENERGY
PROTEIN
FAT
CARBS
CALCIUM
IRON
VITAMIN A
VITAMIN B2
VITAMIN C

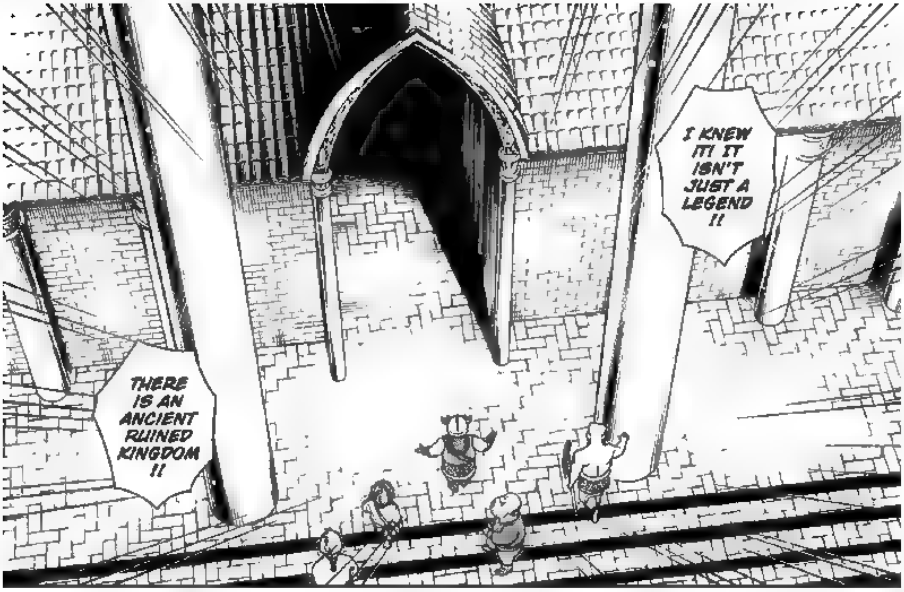

YEAH LITERALLY
THIS IS GOOD! IT'S A PERFECT FUSION OF MEAT AND VEG!
SAKU
SAKU
SAKU CRUNCH
I SHOULD'VE BROUGHT THAT LIQUOR BACK WITH ME.
DAMN
IZUTSUMI, EAT MORE THAN JUST THE WINGS.
DON'T WANNA.
IF IT USES A WEEK'S WORTH OF FOOD FOR ONE MEAL, IT'S NOT "EXCELLENT."
EASY MEALS WITH FAMILIARS
I BET YOU COULD WRITE A WHOLE BOOK
SUMMONING MIGHT MAKE AN EXCELLENT COOKING METHOD.
HAAAH...
WANT TO DRAIN THE BLOOD?
SEN-SHI?
IS THE GRIFFIN BODY BOTHER-ING YOU?
YOU TOO, SENSHI. TRY SOME...
AHEM.
...HEY, SENSHI?
N-NO, IT'S NOTHING...
I'M JUST... NOT HUNGRY NOW.

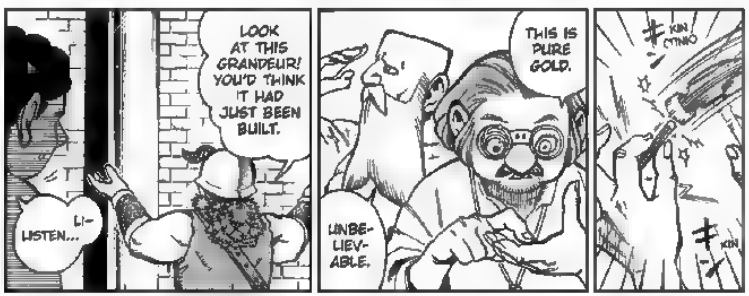

MY NAME IS CHIL-CHUCK.
I WAS BORN IN A LITTLE VILLAGE IN A BASIN, NORTHEAST OF HERE.
I'VE BEEN DOING BUSINESS IN OR AROUND VARIOUS DUNGEONS FOR A DECADE OR SO.
OPENING LOCKS, INTERPRET-ING. .
MEDIAT-ING...
APPRAIS-ING...
I'VE ALSO GOT A WIFE AND DALGHTER, BUT FOR VARIOUS REASONS, I HAVEN'T SEEN THEM IN YEARS.
HUH?
WHY ARE YOU LIVING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
WHAT HAPPENED?
DAUGHTER???
.....
THAT'S MY PAST IN A NUT-SHELL.
WIFE?
NOW TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF, OKAY?
HAAH.


MINERS WE WERE, BUT WE WEREN'T LOOKING FOR ORE.
WE SEARCHED PREWAR RUINS, HOPING TO STRIKE IT RICH.
MY NAME IS SENSHI OF IZGANDA.
I WAS PART OF A SMALL MINING GROUP.
ONE DAY, WE STRUCK SOMETHING HUGE.
AN ANCIENT CASTLE THAT SHONE WITH GOLD...
THAT SAID... ...ORE MADE UP THE BULK OF OUR TAKE, AND WE WERE LUCKY TO FIND RELICS LIKE GEARS OR LENSES ONCE IN A WHILE.
THAT'S RIGHT. THIS DUNGEON.
CHAPTER 48: THE END



## 49. Griffin Soup


THERE IS AN ANCIENT RUINED KINGDOM !!
I KNEW IT! IT ISN'T JUST A LEGEND !!


LOOK AT THIS GRANDEUR! YOU'D THINK IT HAD JUST BEEN BUILT.
LI- LISTEN...
THIS IS PURE GOLD.
UNBE- LIEV- ABLE.
キン KIN
キン KIN


SENSHI, DO YOU REALLY HAVE IRON IN YOUR VEINS?
WHAT KIND OF BALDERDASH IS THAT?
ARE YOU EVEN SEEING THIS?
IF WE'RE EXPLORING, WE SHOULD BE PREPARED.
SHOULDN'T WE GO BACK UP TOP FIRST?


HEH.
I SEE. THAT YOUNG STILL, HUH?
DON'T PUSH YOURSELF.
YOU WAIT HERE.
SENSHI. HOW OLD ARE YOU AGAIN?
...I'M THIRTY-SIX THIS YEAR.
BRING THE HORSE.
I WAS SCARED TO BE LEFT ALONE, SO I LIED.
WHOA
NO!
BA CRUSH
I WANT GOLD TOO.
GRR!
THEIR EYES GLITTERED IN THE DARKNESS...
...AND WE WENT DEEPER AND DEEPER, AS IF WE WERE BEING DRAWN IN.
I REALLY DIDN'T LIKE THAT PLACE. BESIDES...
...WHILE MANY OF MY COMPANIONS HAD ALWAYS BEEN AMBITIOUS, THEY SEEMED STRANGE NOW.

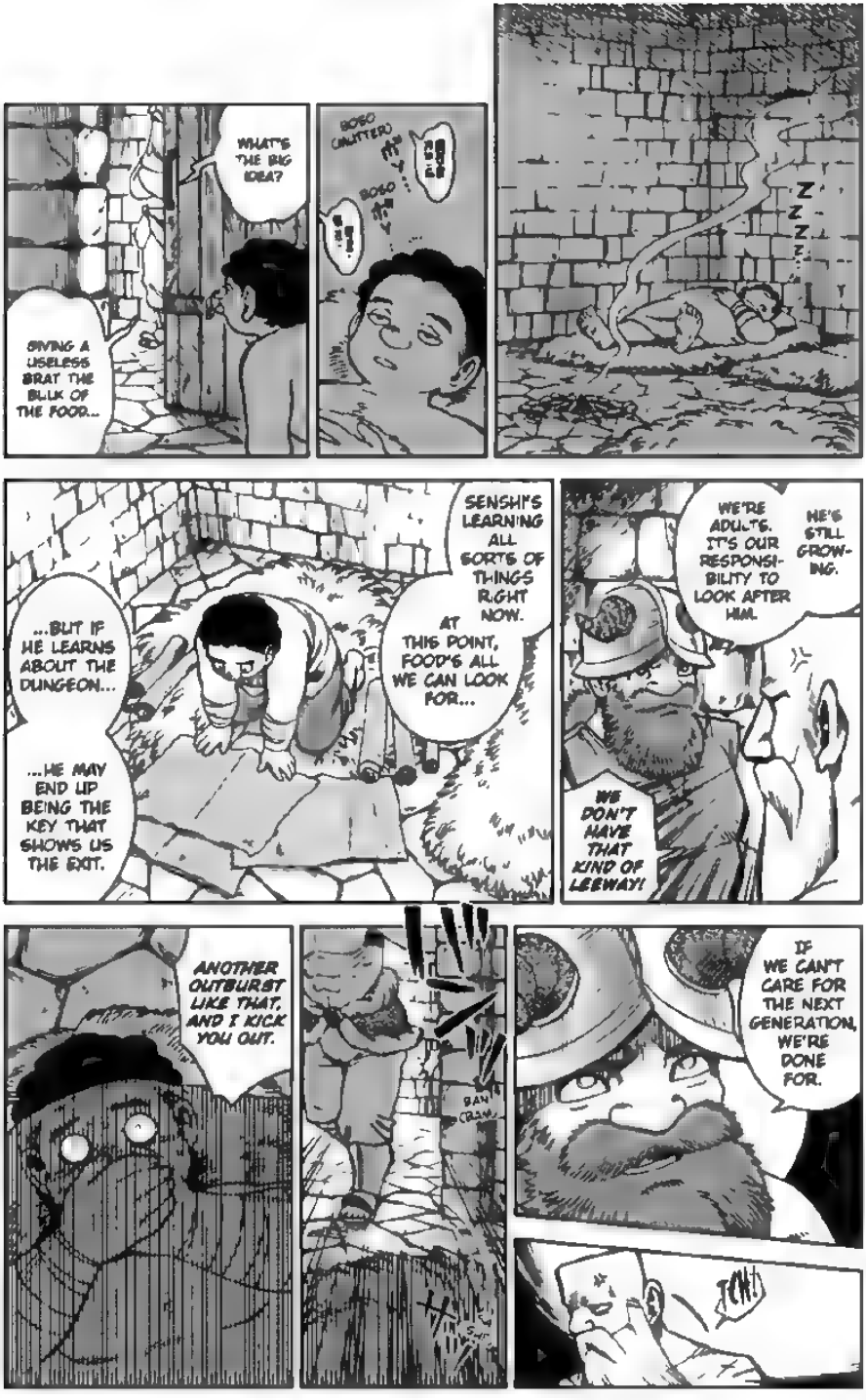

KYAAH!
KATAN (CLATTER)
BATATA (SCRAMBLE)
WE EXPLORED INTENTLY ...
...AND THEN, SUDDENLY, IT BEGAN.
A HUGE BIRD MONSTER APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE...
...AND IT KILLED TOTAN!
WHAT HAP-PENED!?
M-M-MONSTER ...
...WE DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO GET BACK.
IT'S TURNED INTO A DUN-GEON!
THIS ISN'T JUST A RUIN.
THE FEAR FINALLY WOKE THEM UP, BUT BY THEN...


BLAST. THERE WAS NO WALL HERE BEFORE.
ARE WE TRAPPED!?
KII
DON
DUNGEONS ALWAYS CONNECT TO THE SURFACE.
CALM DOWN. LET'S FIND THAT EXIT.
IF
PON PA?
WE WANDERED THE DUNGEON, AVOIDING MONSTERS.
IT WAS ODD...
SOME EVEN SAID THEY'D BEEN TEMPTED BY MATCHLESS BEAUTIES IN THE SHADOWS.
WHEN THIRSTY, WE FOUND SPRINGS...
...AND WHEN WE GOT TIRED, WE'D FIND ROOMS WHERE WE COULD REST.


EDIBLE?
IF WE JUST KEEP RUNNING FROM MONSTERS, WE'LL STARVE TO DEATH.
WE NEED TO FIND SOMETHING EDIBLE, EVEN IF IT MEANS FIGHTING.
EVEN MONSTERS MUST EAT SOMETHING TO STAY ALIVE.
BEFORE LONG, OUR FOOD RAN OUT.
NOOR AND I WILL USE WEAPONS AND DRIVE THE MONSTERS BACK.
INVAR, BRIGAN.
YOU TAKE SHIELDS AND GUARD US.
TO THINK WE'D BE USING OUR HEIRLOOM BATTLE GEAR AS IT WAS MEANT TO BE USED.
LET'S GO!
...YOU STAY HERE AND MAKE A MAP OF THE AREA.
AND, SENSHI...


GUI (PUSH)
OUT OF THE WAY.
WE HAVE TO TREAT HIM, FAST.
THAT WOUND...!
THE BIRD MONSTER TURNED UP AGAIN.
THE BASTARD FLEES RIGHT INTO THE AIR.
I FELT WRETCHED FOR GETTING HUNGRY WHEN I'D DONE NOTHING.
WE FOUND FOOD.
YOU EAT THIS.
I-I'LL GO HUNT FOR FOOD WITH YOU NEXT TIME!
NO NEED. YOU'D BE IN THE WAY.


PRESSED FOR FOOD, WE FINALLY PUT DOWN THE HORSE.
EACH TIME WE FOUGHT, WE LOST COMPANIONS.
THE "BIRD" PURSUED US TENACIOUSLY.
WE STARTED SEARCHING HARDER FOR THE DAY'S FOOD THAN THE EXIT.
IT PROBABLY ENJOYS KILLING.
THEY SAY MONSTERS TEND TO BE LIKE THAT.
WHY DOES IT HATE US SO MUCH?
IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE IT'S HUNGRY.
A FOUR-LEGGED EAGLE...
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT. IT'S A GRIFFIN.
WANT SECONDS, SENSHI?
DON'T YOU WORRY.
NEXT TIME IT SHOWS UP, WE'LL JUST ROAST IT WHOLE AND EAT IT.
.....
BE GRATEFUL TO ANNE AND EAT A LOT.

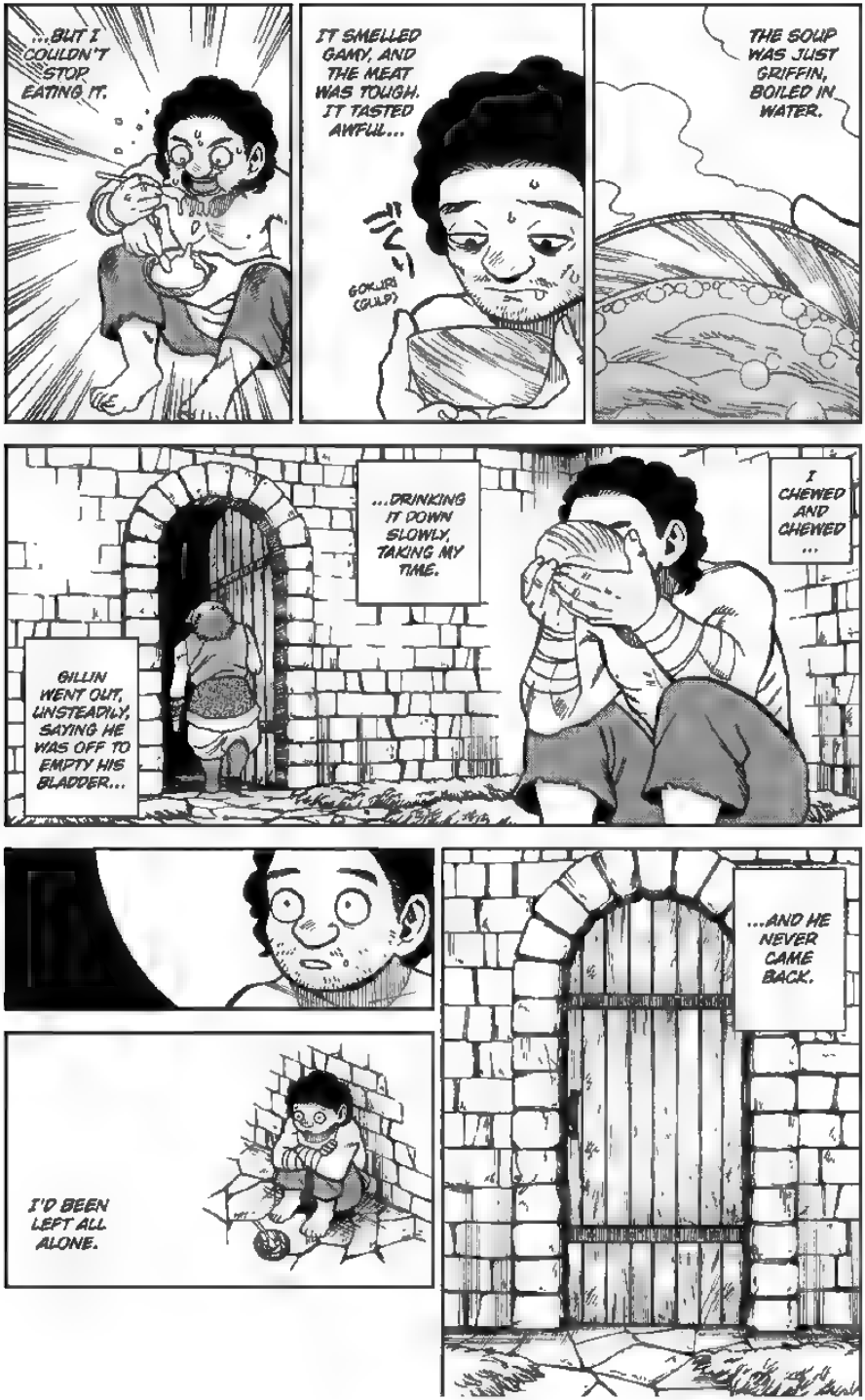

WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?
GIVING A USELESS BRAT THE BULK OF THE FOOD...
BOGO CHATTER!
BOGO
Z Z Z Z
SENSHI'S LEARNING ALL SORTS OF THINGS RIGHT NOW.
AT THIS POINT, FOOD'S ALL WE CAN LOOK FOR...
...BUT IF HE LEARNS ABOUT THE DUNGEON...
...HE MAY END UP BEING THE KEY THAT SHOWS US THE EXIT.
WE'RE ADULTS. IT'S OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO LOOK AFTER HIM.
HE'S STILL GROWING.
WE DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF LEEWAY!
ANOTHER OUTBURST LIKE THAT, AND I KICK YOU OUT.
BAN CRUSH
IF WE CAN'T CARE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION, WE'RE DONE FOR.
TCH!

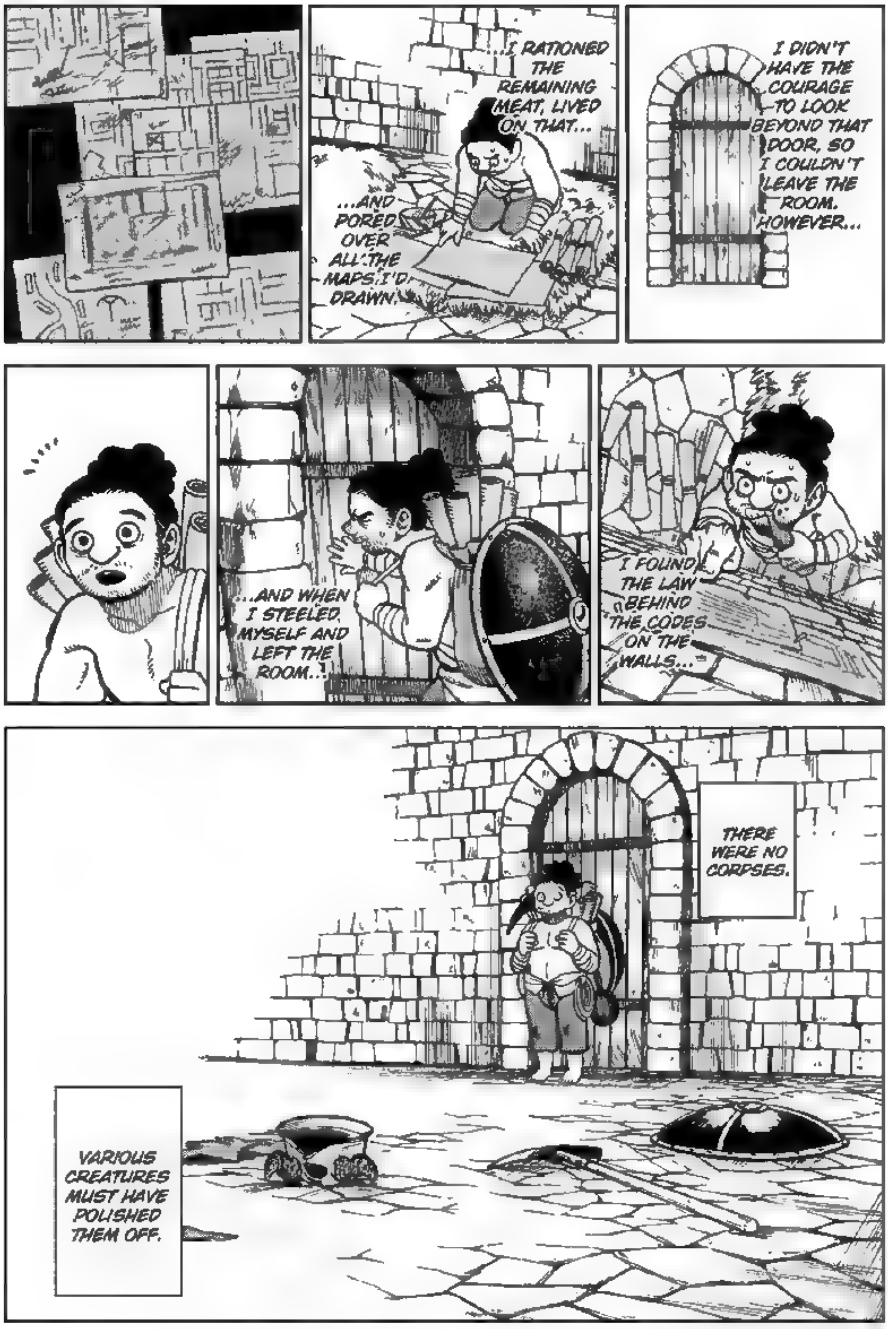

I'VE BEEN WONDERING...
WHY IS THERE LIQUOR AND FOOD IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
THAT'S TODAY'S TAKE.
DOSA (FWUMP)
DOSA
HMM...
PHEW
HOW DO THEY LIVE HERE?
DEMI-HUMANS ARE PRETTY MUCH HALF MONSTER.
THEY PROBABLY HIT IT OFF.
ORCS.
THEY BUILD VILLAGES IN DUNGEONS.
FINALLY, TIRED OF LOSING FOOD TO US, THE ORCS SET GUARDS...
...AND WE WENT HUNGRY FOR DAYS ON END.


...I'M HUNGRY.
~DOKI (BADUM)~
HEY.
PA (FLICK)
PERO (LICK)
IF I'VE GOT IRON FLOWING THROUGH ME...
...YOU'D THINK I COULD EAT ROCKS.
KORON (ROLL)
BA (LUNGE)
STOP! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
THAT LITTLE ...!
LET'S TALK OUTSIDE.
SENSHI'S FRIGHT-ENED.
WHAT DID YOU JUST HIDE!?
YOU HAVE A STASH OF FOOD, DON'T YOU!!?


I HEARD CRASHING SOUNDS...
...AND SEVERAL SCREAMS.
THEIR ANGRY VOICES ...
...GREW PIERCER.
THEN IT GOT TERRIBLY QUIET.
ガチャ
GACHA (KACHAK)
...I WOULDN'T LOOK OUTSIDE.
THE GRIFFIN ATTACKED US.
BIKU (FLINCH)
YOU STAY PUT!!
GILLIN!? WHAT HAP-PENED!?
WHERE'S BRIGAN ...?


...THERE WAS A DENT, AS IF HE'D BEEN STRUCK WITH A BLUNT OBJECT.
OH!
WHEN I LOOKED AT GILLIN'S HEAD...
I KILLED THE MONSTER ...
...BUT BRIGAN DIED INSTANT-LY.
FURA (SHUDDER)
I'LL BUTCHER IT...
...THEN TURN IT INTO SOUP.
THAT'LL KEEP US ALIVE A WHILE.
LET'S EAT THAT GRIFFIN.
.....
NEVER MIND THAT.


...BUT I COULDN'T STOP EATING IT.
IT SMELLED GAMY, AND THE MEAT WAS TOUGH. IT TASTED AWFUL...
GOKURI (GULP)
THE SOUP WAS JUST GRIFFIN, BOILED IN WATER.
I CHEWED AND CHEWED ...
...DRINKING IT DOWN SLOWLY, TAKING MY TIME.
GILLIN WENT OUT, UNSTEADILY, SAYING HE WAS OFF TO EMPTY HIS BLADDER...
...AND HE NEVER CAME BACK.
I'D BEEN LEFT ALL ALONE.


I RATIONED THE REMAINING MEAT, LIVED ON THAT...
...AND PORED OVER ALL THE MAPS I'D DRAWN.
I DIDN'T HAVE THE COURAGE TO LOOK BEYOND THAT DOOR, SO I COULDN'T LEAVE THE ROOM. HOWEVER...
...AND WHEN I STEELED MYSELF AND LEFT THE ROOM...
I FOUND THE LAW BEHIND THE CODES ON THE WALLS...
THERE WERE NO CORPSES.
VARIOUS CREATURES MUST HAVE POLISHED THEM OFF.


...THE ORCS CAUGHT ME AND HELD ME CAPTIVE IN THEIR VILLAGE FOR A WHILE.
AFTER THAT...
...THEY TAUGHT ME HOW TO TELL EDIBLE MUSHROOMS FROM INEDIBLE ONES...
...AND HOW TO DEAL WITH MONSTERS.
OHHH. SO THAT'S WHAT THAT MEANS
AS IT TURNED OUT, THEY WERE A SURPRISINGLY GOOD-NATURED BUNCH.
I TAUGHT THEM ANCIENT DWARFISH, AND IN EXCHANGE...
AND SO...


...I MADE IT OUT.
...AND CROWDS OF ADVENTURERS STARTED COMING THROUGH
I JUST COULDN'T GO BACK TO MY HOMETOWN
I LIVED NEAR THE DUNGEON AND IN ITS UPPER LEVELS
WHEN I THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT HAD HAPPENED...
...T...


THE MEAT TASTED NOTHING LIKE ANY MONSTER I'VE EATEN.
EVERY TIME I EAT SOMETHING, I REMEMBER THAT SOUP.
WHAT WEIGHED ON MY MIND...
...WAS THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THAT HAD REALLY BEEN GRIFFIN MEAT.


THAT'S WHY I RAN FROM THE GRIFFIN.
I'M...
...AFRAID TO LEARN THE TRUTH.


...SENSHI.
.....
THAT'S AWFUL...


HUH!?
...WANT TO EAT THAT GRIFFIN?
IN THAT CASE...
THE MAN WHO MADE THE SOUP WOULDN'T WANT THAT.
IF THAT RUNS THROUGH YOUR MIND AT EVERY MEAL, YOU'LL MISS OUT.
I MEAN, YOU'RE STILL YOUNG.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
UH, NO, IT'LL BE A LOT BIGGER.
IF IT'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT, THEN... THAT'S TOO BAD.
BUT THE KNOT IN YOUR HEART WILL BE GONE.
IF IT TASTES THE SAME, YOU CAN RELAX.
WHAT DO YOU SAY, SENSHI?


SENSHI...
...YOU'RE RIGHT.
I SHOULD PROBABLY EAT IT.
OKAY. IN THAT CASE...
PAN (SMACK)
...LET'S RE-CREATE THE ORIGINAL METHOD AS CLOSELY AS WE CAN.
WE'LL JUST CUT THE MEAT OUT WITHOUT DOING MUCH TO IT.
THE FRONT AND REAR HALVES MAY TASTE TOTALLY DIFFERENT...
...SO WE'LL TAKE FROM BOTH!
YOU JUST WANT TO EAT IT.


CARNIVORE...
I WONDER WHY THE GRIFFIN WAS SO STUBBORN ABOUT CHASING YOU.
WHAT INCREDIBLE MUSCLES.
THAT'S A CARNIVORE FOR YOU
ZORI (SAW)
ZORI
WAIT...
WHY DIDN'T IT ATTACK THE HORSE FIRST, THEN?
NO IDEA.
I'LL HEAT SOME WATER.
OH! YOU SAID YOU HAD A HORSE, DIDN'T YOU?
MAYBE THAT'S WHY.
GRIFFINS LOVE TO EAT HORSES.
IT KILLED PEOPLE, BUT IT DIDN'T EAT THEM, RIGHT?
IF YOU PICKED UP ON THAT, THEN STOP COOKING RIGHT NOW.
WHY?
WAS THERE A BIG ENOUGH REASON TO DRIVE IT OUT?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT WOULD DO THAT.
WHAT COULD IT HAVE BEEN?
HEY. LAIOS.
HISO (WHISPER)
GRIFFINS ARE PATIENT ...
...BUT THEY'RE NOT THE TYPE TO HUNT FAR FROM THEIR OWN TERRITORIES.


GRIFFINS FIGHT WITH THEIR FRONT TALONS AND BEAK.
AN ATTACK WITH THOSE WOULDN'T LEAVE A MARK LIKE THAT!
RIGHT.
WHO DO YOU THINK PUT THAT DENT "FROM A BLUNT OBJECT" IN GILLIN'S HELMET?
AH!
OH!
A BLUNT INSTRUMENT...
GILLIN KILLED BRIGAN ...
...AND HE TOOK A BLOW TO THE HEAD.
THAT ARGUMENT TURNED INTO A FIGHT TO THE DEATH.
IN OTHER WORDS ...
...GILLIN WASN'T WHACKED BY THE GRIFFIN!
SO JUST STOP. ANY FURTHER, AND YOU'LL END UP HURTING SENSHI.
HMM.
WITH THE LAST OF HIS STRENGTH, GILLIN TOOK THAT MEAT, AND...
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED.


...THEN WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER THREE?
HE SAID THEY WERE ATTACKED BY A "BIRD MONSTER."
BUT...
WE CONFUSED THE GRIFFIN FOR FALIN.
COULD IT HAVE BEEN SOME OTHER MONSTER?
SIMURGH...
COCKATRICE AND BASILISK...
TOO BIG!
OF THOSE, THE ONES THAT ATTACK WITH "BLUNT WEAPONS" ARE...
PEGASUS...
TOO BIG
ROC...
SEABIRD
HARPY, SIREN...
THERE ARE SEVERAL LARGE MONSTER SPECIES WITH WINGS.
THE WATER'S BOILING.
MM-HMM.


IT'S GOING TO BE VERY PLAIN.
WE COULD AT LEAST GARNISH IT...
WE'RE JUST BOILING IT AS IS?
NO OTHER INGREDIENTS...?
THAT'S ALL.
HUH?
MARCILLE.
TAKE CARE OF THE REST!
MM-HM, MM-HM.
HM...
...BUT YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THOSE BEFORE?
NOPE. FIRST TIME.
BY THE WAY, YOU SAID THE ORCS TAUGHT YOU HOW TO IDENTIFY MUSHROOMS...
IF WE DO THIS, SENSHI WILL JUST..
ENOUGH. WE'RE DONE HERE.
NO...
EXCUSE ME!?
YOU GET THIS FAR, AND THEN YOU JUST DROP IT?
FICKLE MUCHI!?


PARA
PARA (SPRINKLE)
GU
GU (KNEAD)
WE'VE COME THIS FAR. LET ME EAT IT.
I CAN HANDLE THE RESULTS, NO MATTER WHAT THEY ARE.
REMOVING THE SCUM
GUTSU (GURGLE)
GUTSU
CHA
BOCHA (SPLASH)
GRIFFIN SOUP (UPPER BODY)
Ingredients
Griffin shoulder roast meat—1 hunk
Water—As needed
Salt—To taste
IT'S DONE.
GRIFFIN SOUP (LOWER BODY)
Ingredients
Griffin thigh meat—1 hunk
Water—As needed
Salt—To taste
ENERGY
PROTEIN
FAT
CARBS
CALCIUM
IRON
VITAMIN A
VITAMIN B2
VITAMIN C

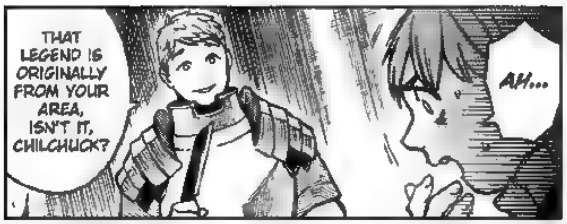

ZU-LURP
TH-THIS IS...
THIS SMELL... TASTE... TEXTURE...
I SUP-POSE... ...WHAT I ATE REALLY WAS.....
...NOTHING LIKE WHAT I ATE BACK THEN.


HE MUST'VE WANTED ME TO LIVE, NO MATTER WHAT.
I'LL SHOULDER THAT WISH ...
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
IT'S A LOAD OFF MY MIND.
HAAH...
YOU MEAN...
HMM... GRIFFIN MEAT.
IT'S VERY GAMY, IT'S TOUGH...
...AND MOST OF ALL, THE AFTER-TASTE IS AWFUL..
LAIOS, YOU MORON.
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE!?
AND IT WASN'T DWARF MEAT!
THEY WERE ATTACKED NOT BY A GRIFFIN, BUT BY A HIPPO-GRIFF.
ACK...
RIGHT.
WHAT SENSHI ATE BACK THEN WASN'T GRIFFIN.

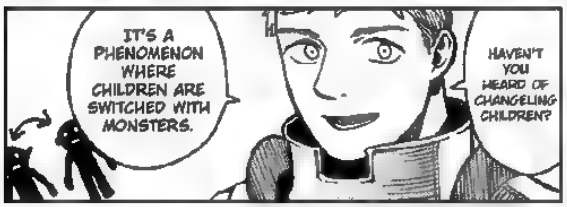

A HIPPO... GRIFF?
GRIFFINS HAVE THE LOWER BODIES OF LIONS, BUT HIPPOGRIFFS ARE CLOSELY RELATED TO HORSES.
HIPPOGRIFF
GRIFFIN
HIPPOGRIFFS ALSO HAVE A WEAPON GRIFFINS DON'T—
HIND LEGS WITH HOOVES.
THEY LOOK SIMILAR BUT ACT DIFFERENT.
LIKES SWEET THINGS
SINCE THEY CAN DIGEST PLANTS, THEY AREN'T VERY ACTIVE HUNTERS.
YOURS WAS PROBABLY TENACIOUS ABOUT CHASING YOU BECAUSE OF YOUR HORSE.
IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN CURIOUS OR IN HEAT.
OH...!
IF YOU GET KICKED BY THOSE, IT'S OVER.
THEY'LL EVEN PUT BIG HOLES IN METAL.

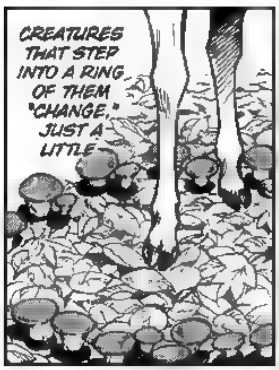

IF WHAT YOU ATE BACK THEN WAS HIPPOGRIFF...
I'M SURE OF IT, SENSHI!
...THEN OF COURSE THIS SOUP TASTES DIFFERENT!
HEH...
HEARING THAT...IS A BIT OF A RELIEF.
EVEN IF WE HAVE NO WAY TO SEE HOW HIPPOGRIFF TASTES.
HA HA.
THANKS, LAIOS.

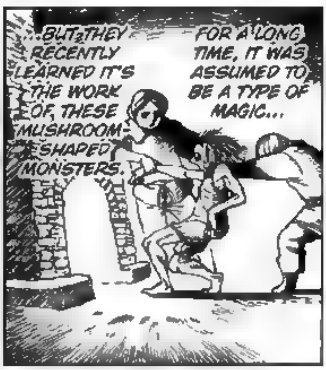

LET'S ACTUALLY COMPARE THIS WITH HIPPOGRIFF MEAT.
HUH...?
WELL, WHY DON'T WE CHECK?
AND ANYWAY, THERE'S NO HIPPOGRIFF AROUND...
W-WEREN'T YOU JUST WRAPPING THINGS UP GENTLY?
"THE TRUTH ISN'T CLEAR, BUT THERE'S A RAY OF HOPE." LIKE THAT!?
SU
PUNT
BECAUSE AN "ACCOMPLICE" MUDDIED THE WATERS.
AN ACCOM-PLICE?
WHY DIDN'T WE NOTICE THAT?
"WE FOUGHT A GRIFFIN THAT SHOULDN'T EVEN BE HERE."
WHY IS THAT?
NO, THERE'S ONE RIGHT OVER THERE!
THEY'VE BEEN SIGHTED IN THIS DUNGEON BEFORE.

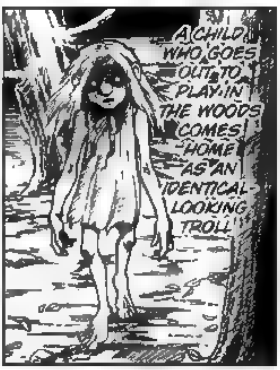

THAT LEGEND IS ORIGINALLY FROM YOUR AREA, ISN'T IT, CHILCHUCK?
AH...


THEY'RE CHANGELINGS.

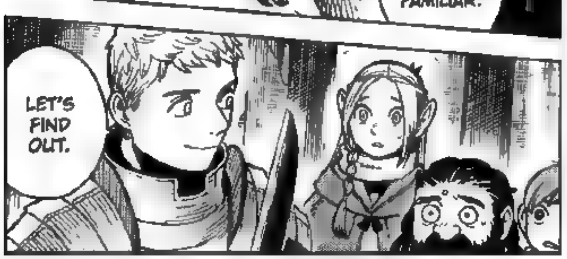

IT'S A PHENOMENON WHERE CHILDREN ARE SWITCHED WITH MONSTERS.
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD OF CHANGELING CHILDREN?

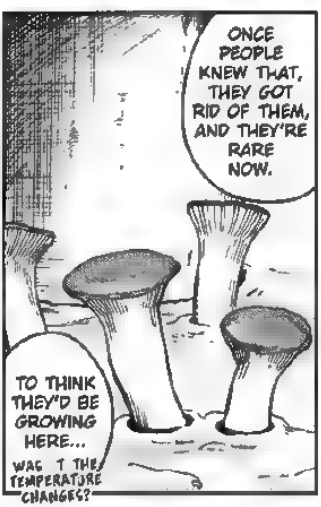

CREATURES THAT STEP INTO A RING OF THEM "CHANGE," JUST A LITTLE

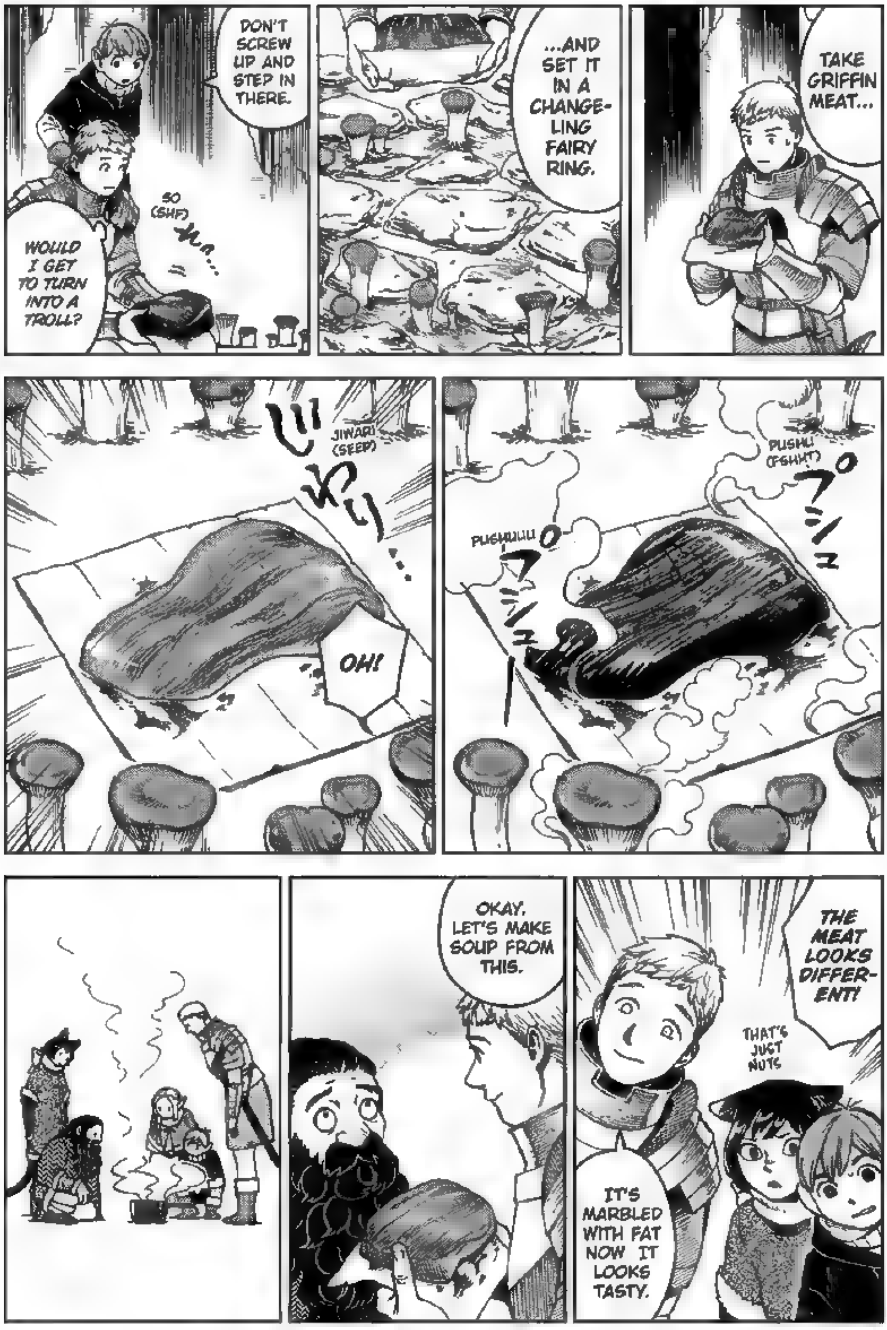

FOR A LONG TIME, IT WAS ASSUMED TO BE A TYPE OF MAGIC...
...BUT THEY RECENTLY LEARNED IT'S THE WORK OF THESE MUSHROOM-SHAPED MONSTERS.

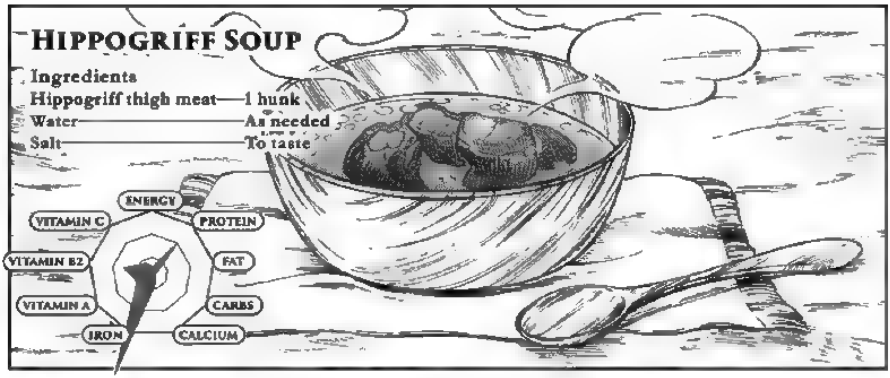

A CHILD WHO GOES OUT TO PLAY IN THE WOODS COMES HOME AS AN IDENTICAL-LOOKING TROLL


IT'S LIKELY THAT THE GRIFFIN WE FOUGHT WAS REALLY...
THE WAY IT GRABBED SENSHI BUT DIDN'T EAT HIM.
THE SHARP KICK THAT KILLED THE FAMILIAR.


LET'S FIND OUT.


ONCE PEOPLE KNEW THAT, THEY GOT RID OF THEM, AND THEY'RE RARE NOW.
TO THINK THEY'D BE GROWING HERE...
WAS IT THE TEMPERATURE CHANGES?


DON'T SCREW UP AND STEP IN THERE.
SO (SHF)
WOULD I GET TO TURN INTO A TROLL?
...AND SET IT IN A CHANGE-LING FAIRY RING.
TAKE GRIFFIN MEAT...
JIWARI (SEEP)
OH!
PUSHU (FSHXT)
PUSHUUUU
OKAY. LET'S MAKE SOUP FROM THIS.
THE MEAT LOOKS DIFFER-ENT!
THAT'S JUST NUTS
IT'S MARBLED WITH FAT NOW IT LOOKS TASTY.


HIPPOGRIFF SOUP
Ingredients
Hippogriff thigh meat—1 hunk
Water—As needed
Salt—To taste
ENERGY
PROTEIN
FAT
CARBS
CALCIUM
IRON
VITAMIN A
VITAMIN B2
VITAMIN C


BURU (TREMBLE)
BURU
ZU (SLURP)


NO. THAT'S NOT IT.
S-SENSHI!?
W-WELL, FLAVOR CAN CHANGE QUITE A BIT DEPENDING ON CONDITIONS AND THE ENVIRONMENT, SO I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT IT TOO MUCH...
NH.
UUU...
PORO (DROP)


THANK YOU. ALL OF YOU.
THANK YOU.
I'VE ALWAYS...
...ALWAYS WANTED TO HAVE THIS SOUP ONE MORE TIME.


WEALTH, KNOWLEDGE, FAME...
THIS DUNGEON RESPONDS INTENSELY TO HUMAN DESIRES.
LIVING IN THE DUNGEON FOR SO LONG HAS SHOWN ME SOMETHING.
...BUT THE MOMENT YOU "WANT," IT BARES ITS FANGS.
SNUFFLE...
IT'S LENIENT TO THOSE WHO ASK NOTHING OF IT, LIKE THE ORCS...
EVEN SO...
...THERE ARE MANY THINGS I'D LIKE TO TEACH YOU.
THE DUNGEON WILL REACT EVEN MORE HARSHLY.
...YOU'LL SEEK THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN AND THE WINGED LION.
AND YOU'LL WANT TO BREAK THE SPELL.
FROM NOW ON...
...ON TOP OF YOUR GOAL OF RETAKING FALIN...
OKAY! IN THAT CASE...
YES. OF COURSE!
WILL YOU TAKE ME WITH YOU?


...LET'S GET GOING!
PUSHH (PSH?)
PUH?

*To be continued...*


I DID A LOT OF SOIL IMPROVEMENT WORK.
HUH?
THE SECOND FLOOR GOLEMS WERE ALL PEBBLES TO BEGIN WITH.
SO GOLEMS MOVE THINGS OTHER THAN DIRT?
MISC. MONSTER TALES
ICE GOLEM
7
WE DESIGNED THEM TO OPERATE APPROPRIATELY UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS !!
DON'T USE THEM IN NON-STANDARD WAYS JUST BECAUSE YOU CAN!
DON'T! JUST— DON'T !!!
DON'T USE THEM RANDOMLY!!
ANCIENT GOLEM ENGINEERS
.....
METAL PARTICLES MIX WITH THE WATER = METAL POISONING
YOU'RE BUILT FOR COMBAT, BUT I BET YOU CAN CARE FOR LIVESTOCK.
GO DRAW SOME WATER
FIRE IGNITES METHANE = KABOOM
YOU CAN MAKE THEM CHARGE...
OR USE THEM AS SHIELDS...
GOLEMS MADE FROM SEWAGE WOULD BE THE ULTIMATE SOLDIERS, NO?
I WANT TO GO HOME
THIS IS ROUGH
JUST HURRY UP, RUN THOSE TRIALS, AND MAKE THE DELIVERY DATE!
IF YOU PEOPLE WOULD JUST... STICK TO THE CODE...
THEN WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO COME UP WITH POINTLESS WHAT-IFS AND COUNTER-MEASURES!


YOU CUT YOUR HAIR FOR MY SAKE?
HUH!?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
MY APOLOGIES.
THAT'S WHY I WEAR IT LONG IN THE FIRST PLACE.
SHOK! (SNIP)
SHOK!
FAMILIAR
BY THE WAY, FOR THAT SPELL, WHERE DID THE HAIR FACTOR INTO THE PROCESS?
I PUT IT IN THE FAMILIARS. WHY?
YUM!
YOU CAN IF YOU WANT.
SOME SHAVE THEIR HEADS BECAUSE THEY DON'T WANT THEIR MANA SCATTERING.
IT DOESN'T AFFECT YOUR SKILLS
IF I'M LEARNING MAGIC, SHOULD I GROW MY HAIR OUT?
HEH...
HAIR IS HANDY.
IT'S WEAKER THAN BLOOD, BUT IT DOESN'T HURT, IT CAN CHANGE SHAPE...
AND CARING FOR IT IS A WARM-UP EXERCISE
BLARGH!
HEY, A HAIRBALL.
CATS COUGH UP ANYTHING THEY CAN'T DIGEST LIKE THAT.
I THINK I'M GOING BARF TOO.
WELL, I DID TELL YOU!
SHAKU CRUNCH
PARI
PARI CRUNCH
PARI
HORK.
HURK.
HURK.
PITA (FREEZE)


I SEE. WELL.
WHEN THEY'RE THIS BIG, THERE'S A KNACK TO IT.
YES, GOATS AND SHEEP...
..HAVE YOU EVER MILKED BEFORE?
MOGU
MOGU UNUNOD
MINOTAUR
OKAY, GO...
HYOI (YOINK)
...YOU'LL GET STOMPED ON AND HURT
IF YOU TOUCH HER TEATS BEFORE SHE'S IN THE MOOD..
THEN GET RIGHT UP CLOSE TO HER.
YOU'L.. ONLY NEED THIS AT FIRST...
..BUT USE THIS SKIN THIS TIME.
FIRST, BECOME A CALF!
I" WORK-ED!
SQUEEZE WITH YOUR FINGERS IN ORDER, STARTING AT THE TOP.
3 4 5
2 1
GRASP THE BASE OF THE TEAT WITH YOUR THUMB AND FORE-FINGER.
FROM HERE ON, I"'S THE SAME AS WITH GOATS.
OH, THAT.
..OF BECOMING A RANCH COW.
OH, THIS TAKES ME BACK.
THAT'S RIGHT... I ALWAYS DREAMED


THAT'S A TOTAL HIPPOGRIFF
I'M TELLING YOU, IT'S TRUE.
NO, MAN. THERE'S JUST NO WAY
THE NAME "HIPPOGRIFF," AS IF A GRIFFIN HAD BRED WITH A HORSE, WAS USED AS A WORD TO SIGNAL THAT A THING WAS IMPOSSIBLE.
GRIFFINS LOVE HORSE MEAT, AND THEY'VE CAUSED TROUBLE NEAR HUMAN TOWNS SINCE ANTIQUITY.
GRIFFIN & HIPPOGRIFF
AND SO THE PROVERB "A HIPPO-GRIFF FROM A LIQUOR BARREL" WAS COINED.
...TO DESCRIBE THE IMPOSSIBLE ACTUALLY HAPPENING.
BUT THEN THEY TURNED OUT TO EXIST.
HUH!?
.PEOPLE THOUGHT THEY'D BEEN DRUNK OR SEEN WRONG, AND NOBODY BELIEVED THEM.
EVEN WHEN PEOPLE SWORE THEY'D REALLY SEEN ONE
I KNOW THAT ONE.
IT'S AN EASTERN PROVERB.
...OH.
HA HA HA!
HEH! I LIED.
I CAME UP WITH IT JUST NOW.
THAT WAS POINTLESS.
WHERE'S THE PROVERB FROM?
I'VE NEVER HEARD THAT BEFORE.
HUH!
THAT'S FASCINATING.
"A HORSE FROM A GOURD"!
UMM...
IT'S SOMETHING ABOUT A HORSE COMING OUT OF A SAKE BOTTLE..
OH YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
NO.
THEY DON'T HAVE HIPPOGRIFFS IN THE EAST.
HUH?
I DUNNO ABOUT THE HIPPO-THINGIES.

# Translation Notes

**Page 37**
For several hundred years after Buddhism rose to prominence in Japan, the national diet was primarily vegetarian, and it stayed that way until the early Meiji period. One of the driving factors behind the shift away from meat eating was the belief that people could be reincarnated as animals, meaning anyone who ate animals might well be eating a former human, and it was believed that people who did eat meat would come back as animals in their next life.

**Page 54**
*Balut* is a type of street food from the Philippines originally introduced from China in the late 1800s. It consists of fertilized duck or chicken eggs (eggs with partially developed embryos inside) that are boiled in their shells and served—egg, embryo, bones, and all.

**Page 59**
Note the two dishes of salt by the doorposts. Shinto beliefs hold that salt is spiritually purifying, and setting dishes of salt on either side of a door is thought to create a protective barrier that keeps sickness and evil influences from entering.

The shelf opposite the door is a simple *kamidana*, a household Shinto altar. The papers with writing on them are *ofuda* talismans; if this is an ordinary altar, one will have the name of a local Shinto deity, and the other will be from the shrine where they usually worship. The dishes hold offerings of salt, rice, and water. The plants are branches of *sakaki* (*Cleyera japonica*), a tree that is held to be sacred in Shinto.

**Page 154**
Marcille technically says "crucified," but the word can also be used for "impalement" in Japanese, particularly when referring to how a shrike kills its prey by impaling it on sharp thorns and branches. The fact that they aren't panicking seems to imply that neither of them is taking "impaled" (or "crucified") completely literally.

**Page 205**
In folklore, one way to tell whether someone was a changeling, or to get a known changeling to go home and return your loved one, was to throw it on the fire. A human would scream for help; a changeling would fly up the chimney and go back where it had come from, and the human it had replaced would be returned. This should obviously not be attempted in real life, but this belief was actually the driving force behind a notorious murder case in Ireland in 1895, in which the husband of Bridget Cleary set his wife on fire, claiming in his defense that she had been a changeling.

**Page 215**
*Hyousan kara koma*, or "A horse from a gourd," is a Japanese proverb meaning "Sometimes things that sound crazy actually do happen."

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# 7

# DELICIOUS IN DUNGEON

## RYOKO KUI

**Translation: Taylor Engel** **Lettering: Abigail Blackman**

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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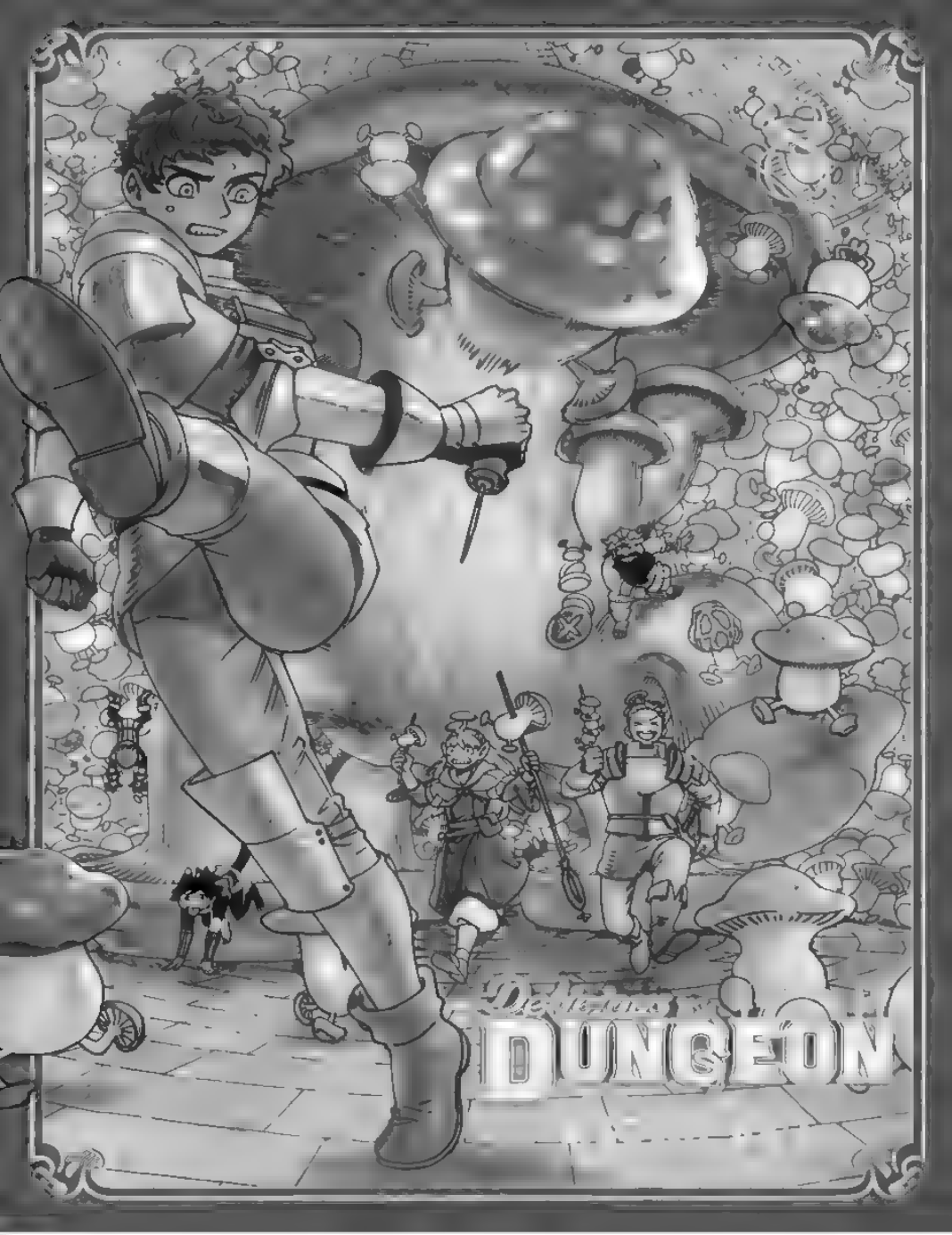
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DUNGEON


DUNGEON

# Delicious in Dungeon



Ryoko Kui

8

# Delicious in Dungeon

8

*Contents*

*Chapter 50* **DUMPLINGS -1-** — 005
*Chapter 51* **DUMPLINGS -2-** — 035
*Chapter 52* **BACON AND EGGS** — 071
*Chapter 53* **ON FLOOR ONE -1-** — 091
*Chapter 54* **ON FLOOR ONE -2-** — 111
*Chapter 55* **ON FLOOR ONE -3-** — 131
*Chapter 56* **BICORN** — 163
*Bonus* **MISCELLANEOUS MONSTER TALES -8-** — 196



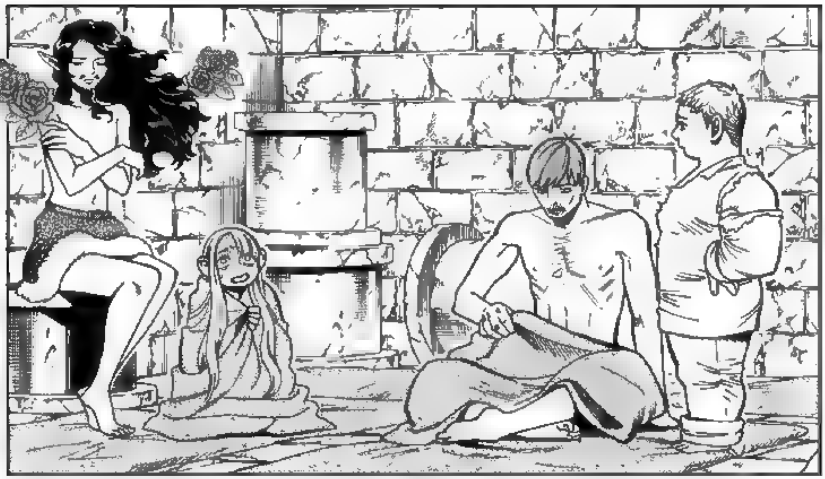

JUST BEFORE REACHING UNEXPLORED TERRITORY—
PURSUING FALIN, NOW GROTESQUELY CHANGED, LAIOS AND COMPANY MADE FOR THE HEART OF THE DUNGEON.
THEY ALL FELL ILL WITH HIGH FEVERS.
GACHI
GACHI CLICKO
I CAN'T STOP SWEATING.
I ACHE ALL OVER.
THIS IS...
COLD...
I MAY NOT MAKE IT...
UU.
HOW ARE...
...THE REST OF YOU?
FALIN...
NOT FROM FOOD POISONING.
WE CAN'T DIE HERE, THOUGH.
DON'T WASH MY HANDS
BUT WE'LL LOOK IT UP WHATEVER
A CRAB(?) IN THE NIGHTMARE?!
THIS IS WEIRDLY SLIMY
WHAT ELSE COULD IT BE BUT FOOD POISONIIIING?
AFTER ALL, WE'VE EATEN ALL SORTS OF STUFF.

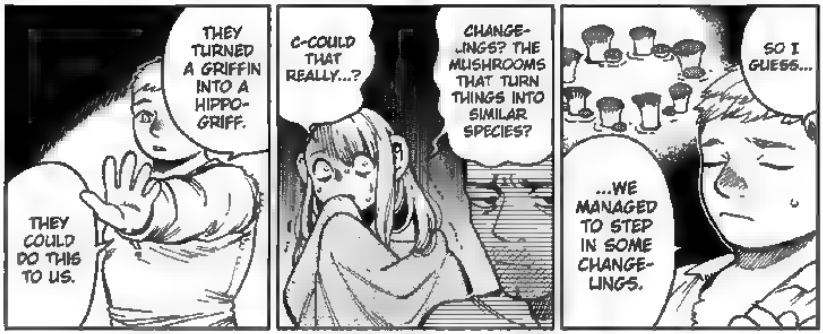
# CHAPTER 50


OH GOOD.
I WAS AFRAID HE'D—
HOW LONG WAS I ASLEEP?
I FEEL LIGHTER
DID THE FOOD POISONING RUN ITS COURSE?
AH!
HM?
HUH?
UH.
WHAT IS THIS?
.....


NN...
MOZO (GOLDFISH)
OH, MAR-CILLE!
LOOK AT THIS.
DO I LOOK WEIRD TO—
SEN...
HARARI (FLUTTER)
SENSHI, TROUBLE! WAKE UP!
YOU SHRANK TOO, MAR-CILLE!?
HA H!?
ACK!


AH!
CHIL...
GUI (SHOVE)
WHAT? GEEZ, PIPE DOWN ALREADY.
DON (WHUMP)!
S-S-SEN...!?
WHO... WHO ARE YOU!?
...CHILCHUCK... SIR?
AAAUGH!
WAAGAGIH!
EEEEEK!



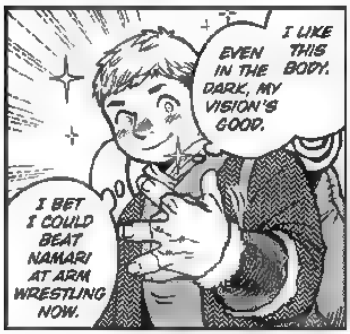

THEY TURNED A GRIFFIN INTO A HIPPO-GRIFF.
THEY COULD DO THIS TO US.
C-COULD THAT REALLY...?
CHANGE-LINGS? THE MUSHROOMS THAT TURN THINGS INTO SIMILAR SPECIES?
SO I GUESS...
...WE MANAGED TO STEP IN SOME CHANGE-LINGS.


IZUTSUMI'S A...DOG.
CHIL-CHUCK'S A TALL-MAN.
SENSHI IS AN ELF.
I'M A DWARF NOW.
MAR-CILLE, YOU'RE A HALF-FOOT?
WITH CAT EARS.
SO, I THINK THAT'S A KOBOLD?

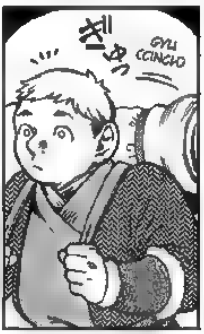

50. DUMPLINGS -1-

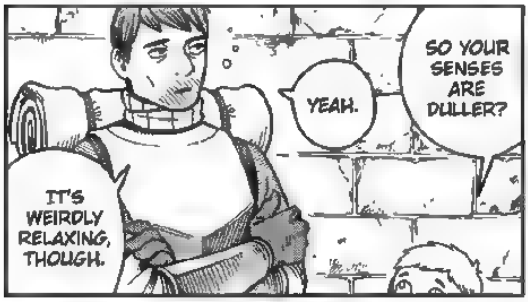

HOW DO WE REVERT TO OUR OLD BODIES?
...SO.
HUH?
WHAT'S OUT THERE...?
I THINK SO, BUT...
...TAKE A LOOK OUT-SIDE.
STEPPING INTO THE RING AGAIN WILL DO IT, WON'T IT?
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO RETRACE OUR STEPS.
...LET'S RETURN TO THE RESER-VOIR
I'M NOT SURE IF WE CAN GET BACK, BUT...
WAS THAT ACTUALLY THE DUNGEON SHIFTING?
WHILE WE WERE LAID UP, I COULDN'T STOP SHAKING.
AND PUT ON SOME CLOTHES.
OH!
THE PATH IS DIFFER-ENT.




I LIKE THIS BODY.
EVEN IN THE DARK, MY VISION'S GOOD.
I BET I COULD BEAT NAMARI AT ARM WRESTLING NOW.


MARCILLE, I'LL CARRY SOME OF YOUR THINGS.
MY PACK IS REALLY LIGHT!
THANKS.

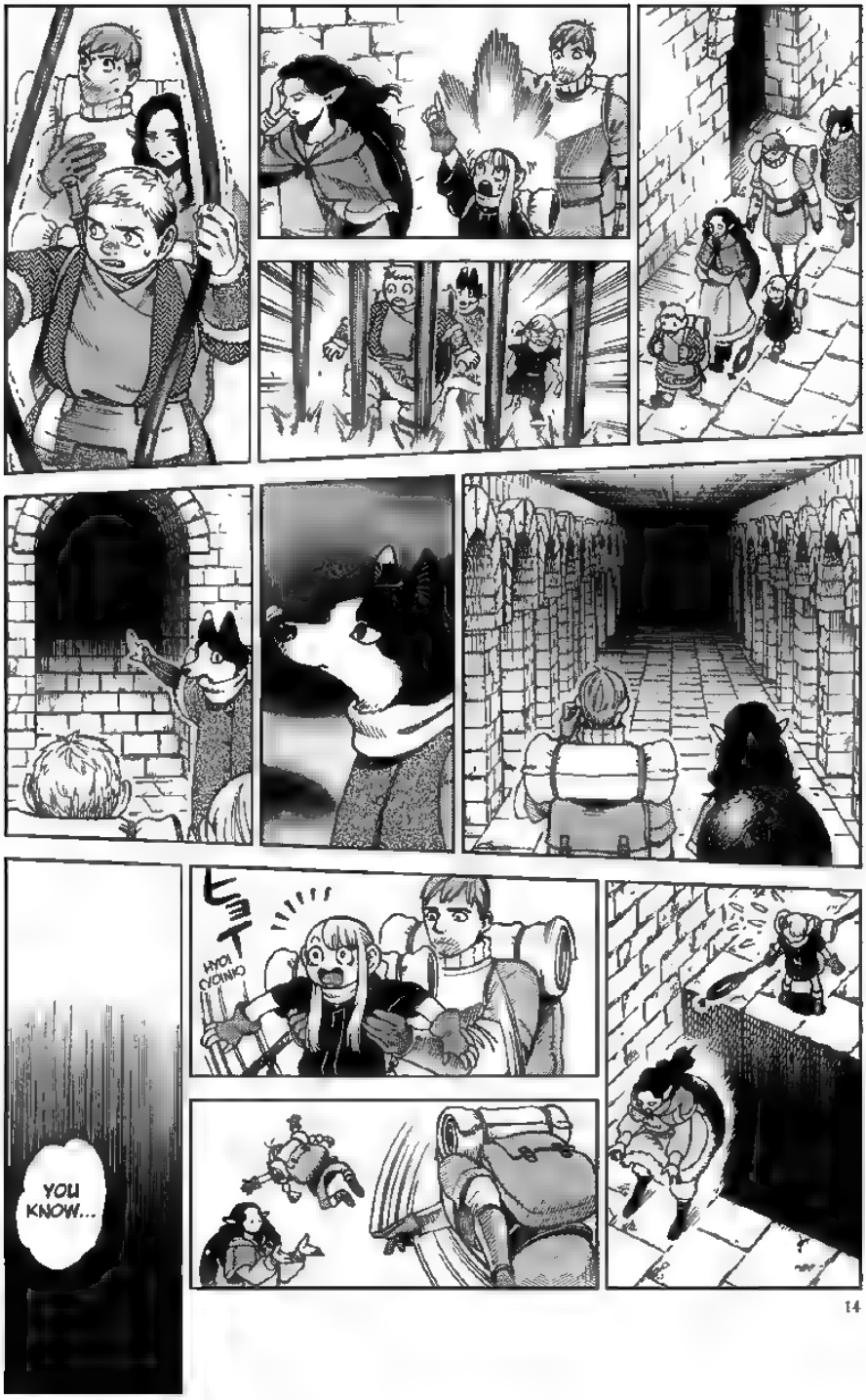

GYU CCINCHO


SO YOUR SENSES ARE DULLER?
YEAH.
IT'S WEIRDLY RELAXING, THOUGH.

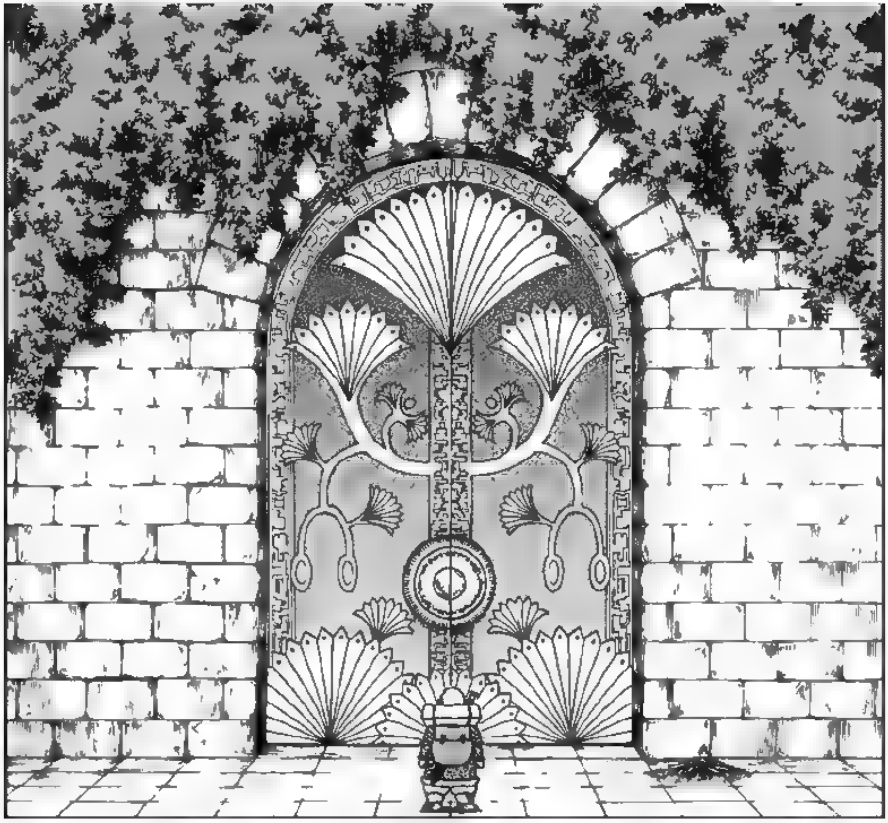

WELL. IT'S NICE TO BE ABLE TO LOOK DOWN ON YOU PEOPLE.
PON (PAT)
PON

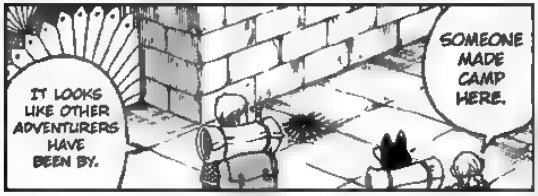

HOW DOES IT FEEL BEING A TALL-MAN, CHIL-CHUCK?
HM...
LIKE I'M WRAPPED IN A THICK, HEAVY MEMBRANE.


HEH...
HIS HEARING'S BAD TOO.
NOT BEING DISTRACTED BY LITTLE THINGS IS GOOD.
THAT'S PERFECT FOR SOMEONE HIGH-STRUNG.
IT'S SCARY HOW FAR AWAY THE GROUND IS.
LUCKY YOU. NOBODY'S GOING TO TREAT YOU LIKE A KID NOW.
NOW IT'S OBVIOUS YOU'RE A THUG.
TCH!
IT'S NAUSEATING.
...ALL WE WERE DOING WAS TORTURING THE REAL KIDS.
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO FIND THOSE MUSHROOMS, THEN.
"DRINKING A BUCKET OF WATER WILL TURN THEM BACK."
"BURN THEM TO SHOW THEIR TRUE FORM."
YEAH, WE HAD A TON OF SUPERSTITIONS, BUT...
WAS THERE A FOLK REMEDY?
WHAT DID YOUR PEOPLE DO WHEN THEIR CHILDREN WERE SWITCHED WITH TROLLS?
NO REMEDY.
MAYBE THIS?
I'VE NEVER SEEN A REAL ONE.
A TROLL WOULD BE GOOD TOO.
Epic
Rare
Uncommon
.....
Common
IF THEY TURN US INTO SOMETHING ELSE INSTEAD OF TURNING US BACK...
.....


ヒョイ
HYOI
CYOINK
YOU KNOW...


IT MAY EVEN BE WORKING BETTER.
WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT WE'D GET USED TO IT?
...BUT THIS IS WORKING PRETTY WELL.
...I WASN'T SURE HOW WE'D MANAGE AT FIRST...
OH.
MAYBE...
PISTILS AND STAMENS ARE...
THIC GUY'S GOT THE WARMEST FUTON.
YEAH, WELL...
KNOCK IT OFF!
ARE YOU BLUSHING?
AH HA!
GET USED TO...
HUH?
THAT DOOR...
SO IF WE TURN HERE, THEN...?
DOESN'T THAT LION STATUE LOOK FAMILIAR?
YOU'RE RIGHT.




IT LOOKS LIKE OTHER ADVENTURERS HAVE BEEN BY.
SOMEONE MADE CAMP HERE.


MMM...
DO YOU THINK THEY MIGHT KNOW HOW TO FIX THIS?


NOOO...
THEY MAY HAVE TELEPORTED BACK UP TOP ALREADY.
I DON'T THINK THEY WENT THROUGH THE DOOR.


THE "HEART," HUH?
AAAAGH! THIS IS WHERE WE WERE HEADED IN THE FIRST PLACE!!
WE TRIED TO GO BACK, BUT WE WENT FORWARD ANYWAY?


...COULD WE JUST KEEP LOOKING FOR THE WINGED LION LIKE THIS?
HUHN!?
WHAT DO WE DO?
I'VE BEEN THINKING...
YOU MORON!!
JUST BECAUSE YOU ENDED UP AS A LONG-LIVED RACE—
I MEAN...
...ONCE WE'RE UP TOP, THERE'LL BE ALL SORTS OF WAYS TO FIX THIS.
I'M NOT SAYING WE SHOULD STAY LIKE THIS FOR LIFE...
IT LOOKS LIKE THE DUNGEON DOESN'T INTEND TO LET US GO.
RATHER THAN WASTE TIME FIGHTING IT...
...IT WOULD BE FASTER TO GO ON.
.....
HOW MUCH DOES EAR SIZE MATTER?
IT ACTUALLY HASN'T BEEN INCONVENIENT SO FAR.
TRUE...


THINK YOU CAN UNLOCK IT, CHIL-CHUCK?
EVERYONE'S MAKING A FUSS BECAUSE IT DOESN'T OPEN, RIGHT?
SAY WE GO ON, THEN.
WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT THAT DOOR?
.....
I SENSE MAGIC RUNNING THROUGH IT, BUT...
...I'D NEED TIME, EQUIPMENT, AND MONEY TO DECIPHER IT.
IF IT EVEN HAD A LOCK.
I BET THIS IS MAGIC.
LAIOS, YOU'RE SPROUTING SOME-THING!
HEY!
WHOA, WHOA, WHOA!
YAAD! WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT THIS!?
DON (BANG)
DON
DON
HELP US, WINGED LION!
WHOA! KEN-SUKE!?
NYORO (WRIGGLE)
BIKU (FLINCH)
GROWTH?
I JUST ASSUMED THE BITTER COLD HAD KILLED IT...
HAS THAT THING GROWN!?


GO (RUMBLE)
THE DOOR...
SHURU (SLITHER)
WINGED LION OR YAAD!
THANK YOU!
IT MIGHT BE YAAD.
WE'D BETTER THANK THEM, JUST IN CASE.
DOES THIS MEAN THE WINGED LION'S HELPING US?
HM!?
UP THERE!
DID SOMETHING JUST MOVE!?
GASA (RUSTLE)


WHOA!
GAR-GOYLES!
HERE THEY COME!


THOSE TURN UP A LOT IN NEWLY DISCOVERED DUNGEONS.
HAVEN'T SEEN THOSE IN A WHILE.
WELL, THIS SHOULDN'T BE A TOUGH FIGHT.
GARGOYLES ARE WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE — STONE STATUES THAT MOVE.
IF WE HIT THEM, WE'LL BE HURT, SO BE CAREFUL.
I'LL GET OUT OF THEIR WAY.
EITHER WAY, THERE'S NOT MUCH I CAN DO.
LIKE I CAN!?
GET BACK HERE AND FIGHT, STRETCH!
BECAUSE YOU STAND OUT THE MOST!
WHA —!?
THAT'S—
WHY'S IT FOLLOWING ME!?


...HWIT?
MAR-CILLE!?
IT'S OKAY! IT WASN'T A DIRECT—
CHIL-CHUCK !!

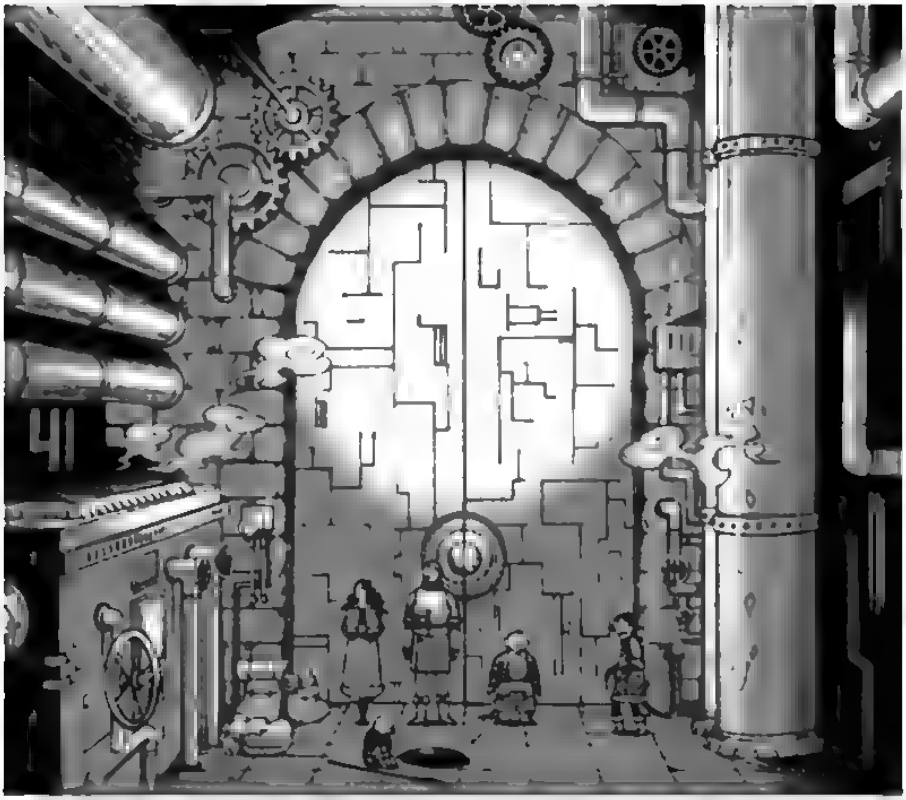

DOKUN (BADMP)
HFF!
HFF!
HFF!
DOKUN
DOKUN
NOT GOOD.
IZUTSUMI, GO PROTECT CHILCHILCK...
E-EVERY-THING'S ALL RAIN-BOWS...
RAIN-BOWS...
MANA SICK-NESS!? FROM JUST ONE SHOT!?
DOKU... (THROB)
DOKU
IF SHE STARTS FIGHTING, SHE WON'T STOP UNTIL SHE DIES.
THE NOISE AND THE SMELL OF BLOOD HAVE HER ALL WOUND UP.
HFF!
HFF!
HFF!
GA (PMP)
"STAY"!
IZU-TSUMI, NO!
STAY PUT UNTIL I SAY SO!
.....
BECAUSE IT WAS HEAVY?
SENSHI! GET THE POT—
SENSHI AND I WILL JUST HAVE TO HANDLE THIS OUR-SELVES.
WHY ARE YOUR HANDS EMPTY?
...SENSHI?


AAAAAAH!!
HOW DO I PUT IT...?
ONLY...
LIKE THIS, I CAN WIN BY MYSELF.
THE SWORD AND POT ARE MUCH LIGHTER THAN USUAL.
IT'S ALL RIGHT
YOU'RE NOT GONNA BUMP IT?
AAAAH! FULL PLATE ARMOR. NICE
COME TO THINK OF IT, MOST DWARFS WEAR LIGHT EQUIPMENT.
IS THIS WHY!?
GET DOWN RIGHT AWAY
RIGHT?
LEFT?
!!
DO (BADUM)
...GETS REALLY TIRED!!
THIS BODY...


GO GET IT!!
CHIRRIRRIRRI
WAAAAH!!
CHIRRIN (JINGLE)
IZU-TSUMI!
SEE THIS BELL?
WAAH!!
OH NO. WE'RE GOING TO LOSE.
EVERY-BODY, RUN FOR IT!!
SENSHI, TAKE MARCILLE AND GET THROUGH THE DOOR.
NOW RUN!
CHIL-CHUCK, CAN YOU RUN!?
TAKE THIS POT LID!


ゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ
ズ


WHAT SHOULD I DO?
WHEW...
.. IS INSANELY INCONVE-NIENT.
THIS BODY...
MARCILLE, CAN YOU GET US SOME LIGHT?
Y... YEAH.
THERE'S NO HELP FOR IT.
WE'VE DONE SOMETHING WE CAN'T FIX.
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO PRAY WE FIND SOME OF THOSE MUSHROOMS UP AHEAD


41


LET'S MAKE SOMETHING TO EAT
HWOO!
W-WILL THOSE MUSHROOMS GROW IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
I'M REALLY NOT
....
IT'S A GENUINE DWARF RELIC...


I NEVER SAW NAMARI START COOKING OUT OF NOWHERE, THOUGH.
HOT...
GYUU (GURGLE)
THIS BODY GETS HUNGRY IN THE EXTREME.
NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY SENSHI ALWAYS STARTS COOKING ALL OF A SUDDEN.
COOKING IS THE PERFECT AID FOR SELF-REFLECTION.
HEH.
MIX WELL.
IN THE MEANTIME, ADD CHOPPED ONION AND OTHER VEGETABLES TO GROUND MEAT.
MIX WHEAT FLOUR, WATER, SALT, AND EGG. KNEAD WELL, THEN LET REST.
ZZZ...
HEY, WHERE DID YOU FIND THAT?
ROLL INTO THIN DISCS.
THAT'S DIRTY
CUT INTO EQUAL PIECES.
FORM THE RESTED DOUGH INTO A LOG.

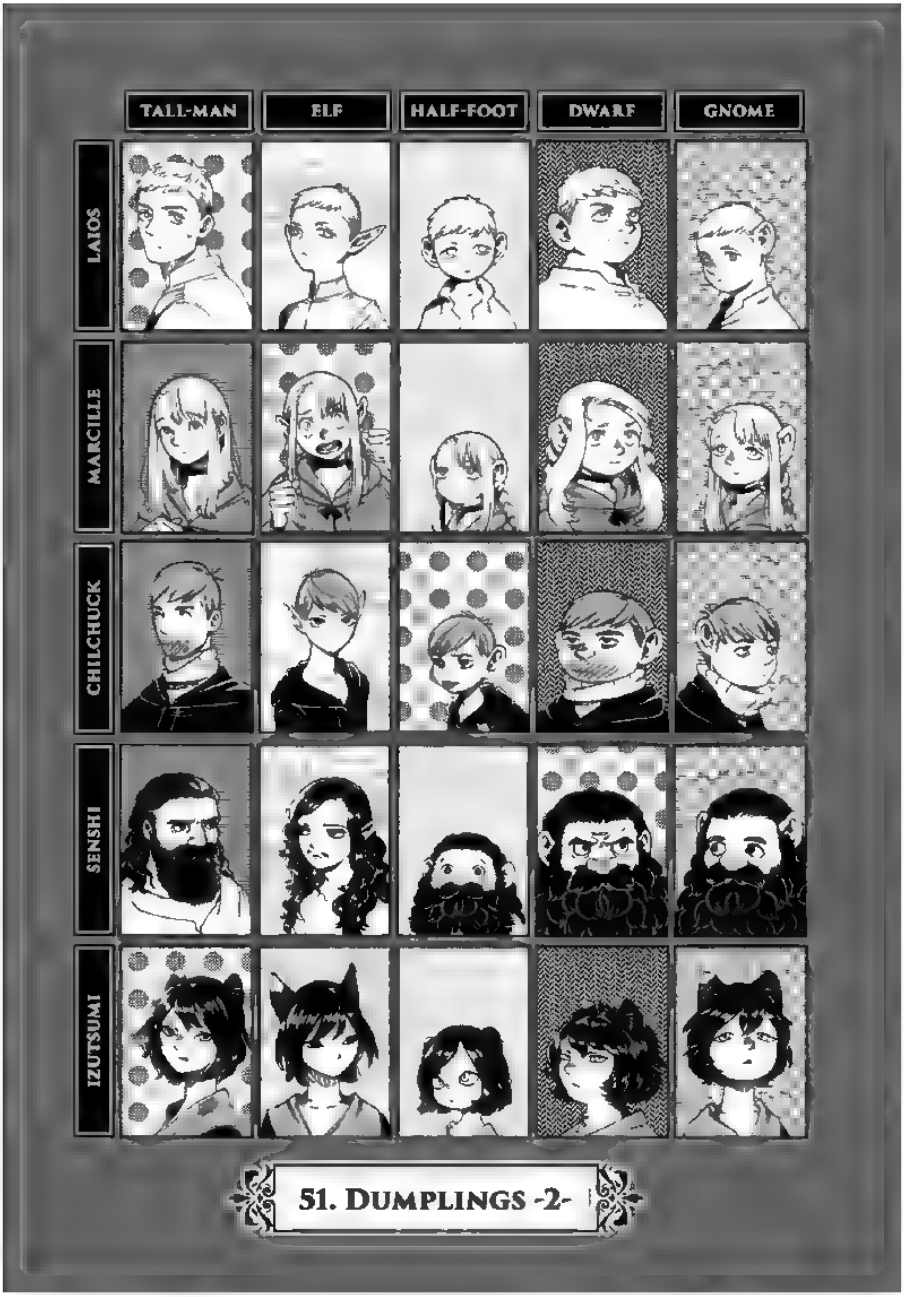

KUNU
KUNU
KUNU
WRAP.
KUNU
PUT THE FILLING ON THE ROLLED-OUT DOUGH, THEN WRAP IT.
キュっ
KYU (TIGHT)
OHHH...


IF WE DIVIDE THEM OVER A FEW MEALS, THEY'LL BE GONE IN NO TIME.
I THINK WE MADE TOO MANY.
HOW STRANGE.
WORKING IN SILENCE...
...IS HELPING ME CALM DOWN.
THAT CAME OUT PRETTY.
ADD BLACK PEPPER, AND...
PUKAA (BOIL)
ONCE THEY FLOAT, WAIT TWO TO THREE MINUTES, THEN TAKE THEM OUT.
DROP INTO BOILING WATER.
BOILED HIPPOGRIFF POTSTICKERS
ENERGY
PROTEIN
FAT
CARBS
CALCIUM
IRON
VITAMIN A
VITAMIN B2
VITAMIN C
THEY'RE DONE!
[DOUGH]
Ingredients
Wheat flour — 500 g
Water — 1 c.
Cockatrice egg — 1
Salt — A pinch
[FILLING]
Ingredients
Hippogriff meat — 300 g
Onions — 2
Carrot — 1
Salt and pepper — To taste


THANKS FOR THE FOOD!
NO POTATO OR CHEESE IN THESE, HUH?
THE SHAPE IS FAMILIAR...
...BUT THE SMELL'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT. WEIRD.
WHERE I'M FROM, WE FRY THEM.
SLURP.
A SENSITIVE CAT'S — NO,— DOG'S TONGUE?
SAY SO SOONER!
CAREFUL. DON'T BURN YOURSELF.
BUSHU (SPLURT)
UUU!
IT'S STRANGE, ISN'T IT?
EVERY REGION AND RACE MAKES THEIR DUMPLINGS DIFFERENTLY, AND YET...
...IN THE END, THEY'RE ALL TASTY.
...THESE ARE WEIRDLY DELICIOUS.
STILL...
NO, ANYBODY WOULD THINK THESE ARE GREAT.
THEY'RE CHEWY...
DO RACIAL DIFFERENCES AFFECT TASTE TOO?
WELL. THAT WRAPS THINGS UP NEATLY, HUH?
HOW ABOUT THAT?
ONLY IN YOUR HEAD.
EVEN IF THINGS CHANGE A BIT, WE'RE STILL US.
IT'S JUST LIKE US NOW.
WE'LL MAKE IT WORK.
RIGHT...
THAT'S RIGHT.


FORTI-FIED...
FROM WHEN THE ELVES AND THE DWARFS WERE AT WAR.
IT'S PROBABLY A FORTIFIED POSITION THE DWARFS BUILT.
YOU COME ACROSS THIS STUFF FROM TIME TO TIME.
CHUU (SLURP)
THAT ASIDE, THIS PLACE IS ODD.
I WONDER WHAT IT WAS.
BUT IT CAME OUT OF MY FIELD...
CONFISCATED!
DANGER!
BUT I PAID FOR THAT.
...AND BOTH ELVES AND DWARFS ARE PRICKLY ABOUT TECHNOLOGY IN THE DUNGEON.
LOTS OF ELF AND DWARF RELICS STILL SLEEP IN DUNGEONS, BUT...
...THEY WORRY HISTORY WILL REPEAT ITSELF...
DIDN'T YOU LEARN ABOUT IT IN SCHOOL?
THEY COMPETED TO MAKE MORE AND MORE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY ...
...AND THEY ENDED UP CAUSING A CATASTRO-PHE.
YOU SAID YOUR MOM WORKED AT COURT. DON'T YOU HAVE CONNEC-TIONS?
TH-THAT'S...
IF WE GET IN TROUBLE WITH THE ELVES, YOU CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, RIGHT?
HUH!? WHY ME?
YEAH, ABOUT THAT.
IT MAY ALREADY BE HAPPENING...
IN THIS DUNGEON ESPECIALLY, THE CONFLICT BETWEEN RACES WAS INTENSE...
...SO WHEN THE ELVES DO STEP IN, I BET THERE'LL BE QUITE A TO-DO.


SIGH (-_-)
IF ANYONE NEGOTIATES WITH THE ELVES, IT'LL BE SENSHI.
EITHER WAY, SHE'S A HALF-FOOT RIGHT NOW.
...I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO.
WE REALLY SHOULD KEEP LOOKING FOR A WAY TO TURN BACK.
AGREED.

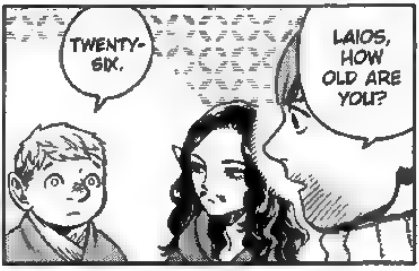



# 51. DUMPLINGS -2-

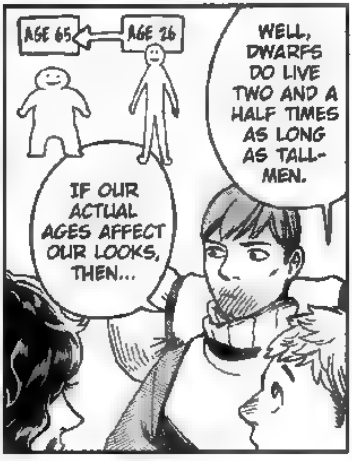

GUTA (STRIDE)
スタ
GUTA
スタ
もた
もた
MOTA
ズベ
ZUBE (SPLAT)
ガシ
GA (CLONK)
THE FLOOR'S LOUSY WITH GAPS, AND IT'S HARD TO WALK.
CAN YOU SLOW DOWN A JITTLE?
IZU-TSUMI...
CHI-CHUCK...
...I'VE BEEN WONDER-ING.
WHAT IS THIS, AN OLD FOLKS STROLL?
SORRY.
I DIDN'T NOTICE.
LET'S TAKE A BREAK.


WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OUR ACTUAL AGES AND HOW OLD WE LOOK?
THESE BODIES...


ABOUT SIXTY?
AND HOW OLD DOES HE LOOK TO YOU, SENSHI?
26 !?


TWENTY-SIX.
LAIOS, HOW OLD ARE YOU?

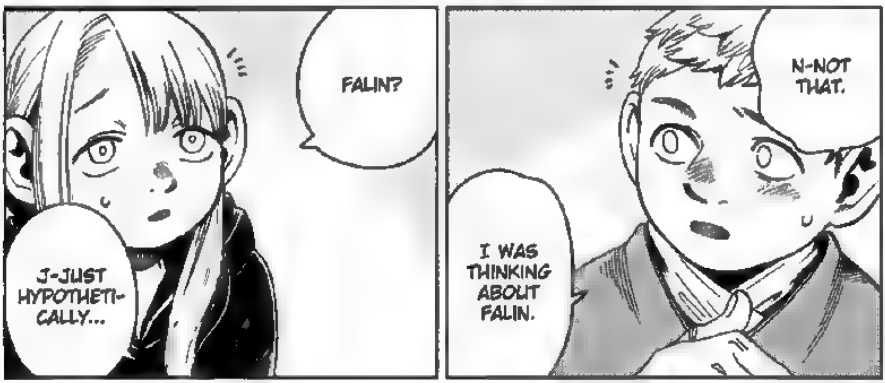

OR WILL IT MATCH OUR BODIES NOW?
...I'M CURIOUS ABOUT REMAINING LIFE.
WILL WE AGE AT THE SAME RATE WE DID BEFORE?


AGE 65
AGE 26
WELL, DWARFS DO LIVE TWO AND A HALF TIMES AS LONG AS TALL-MEN.
IF OUR ACTUAL AGES AFFECT OUR LOOKS, THEN...

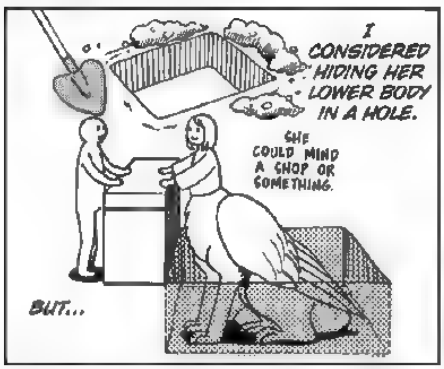

...ON AVERAGE, WE HALF-FOOTS LIVE FIFTY YEARS.
IN LESS THAN FORTY YEARS, YOU'LL GET ALL WRINKLY AND DIE!!
MARCILLE, YOU DON'T SEEM TO THINK IT'S ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU.
BUT IF IT'S THE LATTER...
WHAT!?
MARSHRIVELED
YOUR LIVES ARE THAT SHORT!?
I THOUGHT YOU LIVED TO AT LEAST A HUNDRED!
SOME DO, BUT...
ONLY A FEW.
TALL-MEN LIVE TO SIXTY OR SO.
ゾワ〜
ZOWA (SHUDDER)
SHE GOT QUIET.


...BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN THOSE MUSHROOMS AT THE MARKET.
TONS OF PEOPLE WOULD PAY A FORTUNE TO BECOME A DIFFERENT RACE...
SO EITHER THE CHANGE IS TEMPO-RARY...
...OR THERE ARE NASTY SIDE EFFECTS.
...KIDDING.
WHAT I'M GETTING AT IS...
...IF THAT'S TRUE, THOSE MUSHROOMS ARE WAY TOO CONVENIENT.


YOU STILL WANT TO BE A DEMI-HUMAN?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "SOME-THING"?
...BUT I GUESS IT WON'T BE THAT EASY.
I THOUGHT MAYBE I COULD USE THEM FOR SOME-THING...
SIDE EFFECTS, HM? THAT COULD BE.


FALIN?
J-JUST HYPOTHETI-CALLY...
N-NOT THAT.
I WAS THINKING ABOUT FALIN.

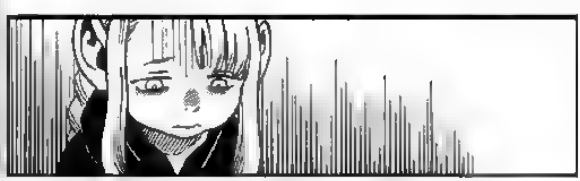

AAAH!
SHE SCARES PEOPLE.
WOW. WAS THAT EVER ROUGH
WE GO BACK TO THE SURFACE.
WHAT WAS I DOING...?
AH!
FALIN GETS HER MIND BACK.
YAAY!
LUNATIC MAGICIAN DEFEATED.
(IT ALL WORKS OUT SOMEHOW.)
I WON'T DO IT ANYMORE


I CONSIDERED HIDING HER LOWER BODY IN A HOLE.
SHE COULD MIND A SHOP OR SOMETHING.
BUT...


LET'S HEAR WHAT HE HAS TO SAY.
YOU ID—
...SO I WAS THINKING, HAVING A DRAGON'S LOWER BODY WOULD BE TOUGH.


SO, BACK TO THE MUSH-ROOMS.


JUST LIKE FISH CAN'T LIVE OUT OF WATER...
...FALIN MAY NOT BE ABLE TO LIVE AMONG HUMANS.
MAGIC IS THIN IN HUMAN TOWNS, AND BIG MONSTERS CAN'T SURVIVE THERE.




MUSHENUSHSHU FALIN
WHA...?
YOU'RE A HOPELESS OPTIMIST.
WYRM FALIN
VELOCI-RAPTOR FALIN
KOMODO DRAGON FALIN
...FALIN MAY BE ABLE TO LIVE IN TOWN!!
IF WE CHANGE HER LOWER HALF INTO A SMALLER DRAGON...
TURNING INTO A TROLL FOR PHYSICAL WORK WOULD BE REALLY HANDY.
IT'S BORING.
TALL-MEN ARE REALLY ORDINARY AND BLAND.
WELL, I DON'T DENY THAT I'D LIKE TO TRANSFORM TOO.
I THINK IT'S COMING CLOSER.
YES. IT SOUNDED LIKE ROCK ON ROCK.
SAY, DID YOU HEAR A WEIRD NOISE?
OH.
I KNOW WHAT IT IS.
NO.
YOU'RE SURE IT WASN'T THE DWARF RELIC?


WHAT, YOU DIDN'T SHUT THE DOOR PROPERLY?
I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO LOCK IT.
GARGOYLES!
THEY'LL JUST KEEP COMING AFTER US.
WE SHOULD AMBUSH THEM AND STRIKE BACK.
W-WE HAVE TO RUN, FAST.
THEY'RE GETTING CLOSER!
MARCILLE, HOW CLOSE ARE THEY!?
I TOLD YOU...
IZUTSUMI, YOU CIRCLE BEHIND THE ENEMY.
SENSHI, WATCH FOR A CHANCE AND—
I'LL DRAW THEM TO ME.
CHIL, YOU GET THE POT.
B-BUT...


THEY'RE RIGHT THERE!
SAKON (CRACK)
BYUU (SOMO)
KARAN (CLANG)
KARAN
LAIOS!
KURU (SPIN)
KURU


DON (WHUD)
WAH!
EVERY-BODY, LOOK OUT!
OH NO! KEN-SUKE!
YU!
BON (BUMP)
ZUN (TROMP)
GYA!
EEP!
NOW DO YOU SEE WHY I ALWAYS GO HIDE RIGHT AWAY?
DON'T HANG AROUND THEIR FEET WHILE THEY'RE FIGHTING.
I KNOW, BUT...
KURU (SPIN)
KURU
KURU KURU
DON (WHUD)
C'MERE.
GUI (YANK)
FOR THE LOVE OF...
STILL THE SAME KLUTZ IN THAT BODY, HUH!?


BRAHUH
(WOOSH)
KAN
(CLANG)


(BOFU (BOOMF)
(BUN (SHAKE)
BUN
WAS THAT YOUR SPELL!?
UHH!
(BOWA (BILLOW)
WHAT'S THE SMOKE FROM?
GOOD. CAN YOU GRAB KENSUKE FOR ME?
SURE—
WE'RE FINE. IT JUST WENT BETWEEN OUR ARMS.
ARE YOU TWO OKAY!?


DID IT ALWAYS LOOK LIKE THIS?
NO...
SO THE SWORD CHANGED SHAPE?
THAT SMOKE... WAS IT...
...CHANGELING SPORES!?
YOU MEAN...
OUR ARMS WERE A "RING."
B-BUT THERE'S NO MUSHROOM RING HERE.


GOSU (WHUD)
AAAAAH!
GA (THWOK)
BO (WHUMP)
GHK!
QUIT BUZZING AROUND...
LOOK BEFORE YOU SAY STUFF!
I AM!
EVERYBODY, HOLD HANDS AND MAKE A CIRCLE!
YOU GUYS!


AND?
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
GYU (SQUEEZE)
GET THE GARGOYLES TO GO THROUGH OUR CIRCLE!
IF I'M RIGHT...
...THEY'LL CHANGE!
BA (POOM)


SUBO (POP)
GUI (YANK)
THE WALL'S OVER THERE! THIS WAY!
OW! OW! YOU'LL TEAR IT OFF!
GUI (TUG)
HERE IT COMES! EVADE!
DOSA (WHUMP)
AH!
OWWW...


GOOOO (MOOOOWN)
BA (PWIP)
DO (WHAM)
GORO
GORO (ROLL)
GORO


GAKIN (CLANK)
GU (TUG)
WAA
AAA
IT'S STUCK!!
NOW! HURRY UP, SURROUND IT!
PASHIN
PASH! (SNATCH)


BOSHU (BOOM!)
KOFF!
WHERE'S THE GARGOYLE!?
KOFF!
WE DID IT!
LOOK!


AND NONLIVING THINGS CHANGE FASTER?
THE MEAT DID TOO.
I SEE. SO THE SPORES—
THAT'S THE GARGOYLE!?
IT REALLY DID CHANGE ...
BYUUN— (ZOOM)
GO (THWOK)
GHK!
ARGH.
IT HURT, BUT I'M FINE. DWARFS ARE STURDY.
THAT MAKES TWICE!
ARE YOU OKAY!?
LAIOS!
DO (THUD)


UMM
THAT ONE ISN'T COMING DOWN.
HOW CAN WE GET IT TO GO THROUGH OUR ARMS?
HUH?
GYU (SQUEEZE)
MARCILLE, COME HERE A SECOND.
IT SHOULD WORK.
LET'S GO.
UM...
GU
GU
GU
GU CHEF!


OKAY.
WE'RE GOING TO GET RIGHT UP CLOSE TO IT.
...?
BAIT IT INTO AN ATTACK.
WE'LL RUN IN SYNC!
LISTEN, I—
HERE WE GO.
ZA CTOOSH!
TWO.
ONE.


ONE!
TWO!
ONE!
TWO!
BASA (CHLAP)
READY ...!
SET—
"READY"?
HUH?
HERE IT COMES!
ARE YOU READY?


FLY, MARCILLE!
NNNNN!
BOFU (BOOMF)
CHORORORO (TRICKLE)
BARA (TUMBLE)
AH!
WAAH!


DON (SHOVE)
ZURI (RATTLE)
DABA (SPLASH)
DABA
DABA
ZURI
ZURI
GOTO (C. WALK)
IT'S OVER.
...IT WAS SIMPLE.
PASHA
PASHA (SPLISH)
PASHA
IF YOU WASH OFF THE SPORES STUCK TO YOU, YOU'LL GO BACK TO NORMAL.


REFERENCE: A SHIITAKE SUBSTRATE
PASHA (SPLASH)
RIGHT NOW, WE'RE SUBSTRATES FOR THE MUSH-ROOMS.
NOW I SEE WHY THOSE MUSHROOMS ACT THE WAY THEY DO.
...EW.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. IT'S JUST WATER.
JYORO (TINKLE) JYORO
IT'S BEST TO RINSE IT OFF WELL.
THAT'S ONE HECK OF A SIDE EFFECT.
ZOO (SHUDDER)
...THEN SPAWNS A NEW RING.
IT DIES...
ITS KIND SHUN IT.
ANIMAL IS CHANGED.
RUN AWAAAY!
HEH!
...AND FIX A MEAL WHILE WE WAIT.
OF COURSE.
LET'S FIND A PLACE TO CAMP...
UNLIKE THE GAR-GOYLES...
...IT'S GOING TO TAKE TIME FOR US TO TURN BACK.


WHOO...
(MYORO SQUIGGLES)
I DOUBT IT WAS THE MUSHROOMS THAT TURNED HIM INTO A KEY, BUT...
WHOA!?
KENSUKE... JUST LOOK WHAT IT DID TO YOU.
GOSO (RUSTLE)
LIAR.
IZU-TSUMI, WASH YOUR CLOTHES.
THEY'LL SPROUT MUSH-ROOMS ALL OVER.
.....
DON'T CLEAN SWORDS WITH WATER.
WILL WASHING HIM FIX IT?


MEH. NOT REALLY.
IS THERE A PROBLEM?
I'M JUST TIRED OF THEM.
...THAT AGAIN?
WHAT'S FOR DINNER?
WE HAVE DUMPLINGS LEFT, SO I'LL BOIL THOSE.
AHH, THAT FEELS BETTER.
...WHAT'S WRONG?
TIRED OF THEM...
TIRED OF THEM...
TIRED OF THEM...
DOES HER OWN THING DOESN'T SHE?
AH!
HOT!
BACHI BACHI
BACHI (CRACKLE)
JYUWAWAWA (SIZZLE)
HEAT OIL IN A FRYING PAN.
GENTLY PUT THE DUMP-LINGS IN.
MAYBE I'LL COOK THEM ANOTHER WAY.


KARI
カリ
KARI (CRISP)
IZUTSUMI DOESN'T EAT MUCH, AND SHE WON'T TOUCH ANYTHING SHE DOESN'T LIKE.
I'LL HAVE TO TAKE EXTRA CARE TO ENSURE SHE EATS ENOUGH.
WHEN GOLDEN BROWN, TAKE THEM OUT AND BLOT EXCESS OIL.
BURUN
BURUN (SHAKE)
QUIT.
HAH! HAH!
HOW'S THIS, IZUTSUMI?
...YOU JUST FRIED THEM?


すすすすすすす
SU SU SU SU (SCOOT)
パフ
PAFU (SHUP)
ヒョイ
HYOI CYONKO
JUST MAYBE...
AND THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF DUMP-LINGS...
HEH HEH HEH
I THOUGHT SO. THE MOUTH SERVES AS A RING.
WHOA!
IT CHANGED SHAPE!?
NOW, [illegible]ME HELP ME SET OUT THE DISHES.
IT DIDN'T HAPPEN WHEN WE ATE THE HIPPOGRIFF MEAT, DID IT?
DIGES-TION IS POWER-FUL.
WHAT IF THOSE MAKE MUSHROOMS SPROUT IN OUR STOMACHS?


CHANGELING DUMPLINGS FROM FAIRY RING
Ingredients
Dwarf-style dumplings——As many as you like
Changeling spores——As needed
THEY'RE DONE!
ENERGY
PROTEIN
FAT
CARBS
CALCIUM
IRON
VITAMIN A
VITAMIN B2
VITAMIN C
THIS ONE
KLIN (SNIFF)
KLIN
THAT'S AN INSANE VARIETY.
OH-HO
TH,S ONE'S SWEET
WHAT KIND OF MEAT IS THIS..?
OOH! THIS ONE HAS CHEESE IN IT! ....
OH-HO.
IT'S GOT BAROMETZ MEAT IN IT.
MUTTON, HM? SO THE FILLING ALSO CHANGED...


UU!
BASHI (SMACK)
YOUR LEGS ARE TOO LONG!
THANK GOOD-NESS.
I'M SO GLAD...
YOU'RE RIGHT!
DAMN, THAT'S A LOUSY WAY TO WAKE UP.
OH, I'M BACK TO NORMAL.


IT'S A TEMPERATURE THAT MAKES BREEDING EASY...
KON
KON (TAP)
...BUT THERE MAY NOT BE ANYTHING ALIVE UP AHEAD.
I'D CHANGE INTO SOMETHING COOLER FIRST.
THIS FLOOR IS HOT.
WELL, WANT TO HEAD OUT?
I LOST THAT.
IT WAS A TRAGIC AFFAIR...
I SEE.
WELL, NO BIG DEAL.
DRAGON BONELESS HAM
OH...
I'M WORRIED...
I SHOULD HAVE MADE UP SOME SAUSAGE.
DIDN'T YOU MAKE SOME WITH THE RED DRAGON MEAT EARLIER?


HUH!? IT'S, UM...
WHY IS YOUR SWORD WRAPPED UP?
IN A SHEATH, KENSUKE WOULD GET STEAMED...
I HATE IT WHEN IT'S HOT.
NO, UM... I CAN'T REALLY DO THAT.
LET ME SEE IT.
SHOW ME!
.....
GO WASH THIS OFF RIGHT NOW.
YES, MA'AM.
WHAT DO WE DO WITH HIM?
FORM A RING AROUND HIM AND BEAT HIM UP?





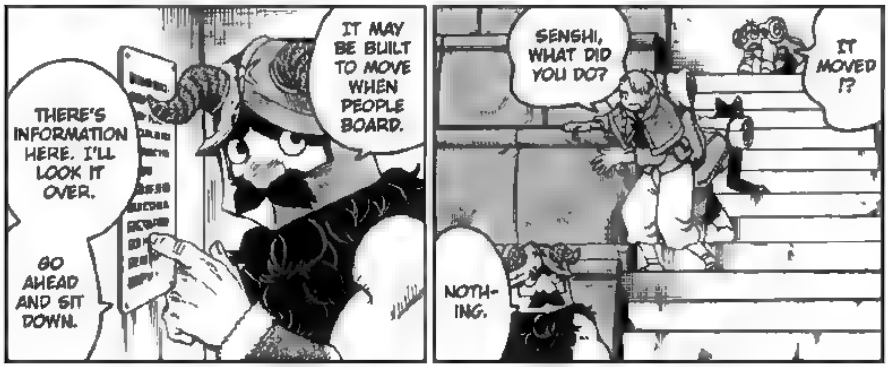
## 52. Bacon and Eggs




HOW ABOUT THERE?
JUST A WEIRD BUILDING. THERE'S NOWHERE ELSE TO GO!
GUI (SHOVE)
A WEIRD...
...BUILD-ING...
IT'S PROBABLY AN AUTOMATIC TROLLEY.
LET'S LOOK INSIDE.
AGH!
SAKOKO KAGIONA
DON DON
DON DON




GOTON GLANK!
JAKON CKACHUNK!
I DOUBT IT STILL WORKS.
IF WE BROKE IT DOWN AND SOLD IT, I BET IT'D BRING IN QUITE A BIT.


IT MAY BE BUILT TO MOVE WHEN PEOPLE BOARD.
THERE'S INFORMATION HERE. I'LL LOOK IT OVER.
GO AHEAD AND SIT DOWN.
SENSHI, WHAT DID YOU DO?
IT MOVED!?
NOTH-ING.


ゴト…
ゴト…
FOT-KATUUN
ゴト…
DO NOT CONSUME ALCOHOL ONBOARD.
DO NOT WALK AROUND WHILE VEHICLE IS MOVING.
DO NOT LEAN OUT OF WINDOWS.
HMM...
UTO (DOZE)
UTO
YAWN...
...MAYBE I'LL MAKE SOME TEA.
WELL, IT DOESN'T SEEM DANGEROUS.
LET'S RIDE IT AS FAR AS IT GOES.
THERE WASN'T MUCH WRITTEN THERE.


DID YOU GET A MAGIC CIRCLE DRAWN?
I THINK SO...
I'M NOT SURE WHETHER IT'S WORKING, THOUGH.
SHFF
SHFF
SHFF
ZARA (SHFF)
ROASTED DRYAD SEEDS.
WHAT'S THAT?
PO (BLUP)
IT'S SLOW, BUT IT DOES SEEM TO BE HEATING.
コン KON (TMP)
HUH? ME?
YOU DON'T SEEM TO HAVE DREAMS OF GETTING RICH QUICK.
THAT'S HANDY.
BY THE WAY, LAIOS.
WHY DID YOU AND YOUR SISTER BECOME ADVEN-TURERS?


I DIDN'T FIT THERE EITHER, THOUGH...
IN MY TEENS, I GOT FED UP WITH MY VILLAGE.
HM. IT'S A LONG STORY, BUT...
I WENT TO A SCHOOL IN TOWN, THEN JOINED THE ARMY.
I MADE MY WAY SOUTH...
...AND I SIGNED ON WITH A PASSING CARAVAN.
WHAT, HE DESERTED?
...DOING ODD JOBS AS I WENT...
...AND FINALLY REACHED THIS ISLAND.


FALIN WAS AT A NEARBY MAGIC SCHOOL, SO BEFORE CROSSING TO THE ISLAND...
...I STOPPED BY JUST TO SEE HER.
THEN SHE INSISTED ON COMING WITH ME, SO...
GOKI OKRIKK
...WE WENT TO THE ISLAND TOGETHER.
WHEN WE FIRST GOT HERE, THE GOLD-PEELERS WERE FLOURISHING...
...AND THERE WAS PLENTY OF GUARD WORK.
THAT NATURALLY LED US TO THE DUNGEON ...
...AND HERE I AM.
NOW THAT'S LIVING WITHOUT A PLAN.


MM...
FALIN DIDN'T HAVE A VERY HAPPY CHILDHOOD.
WOULDN'T HER LIFE HAVE BEEN EASIER AT SCHOOL?
YOU'RE ONE THING, BUT WHY YOUR SISTER?
PEOPLE SHUNNED HER JUST BECAUSE SHE HAD A GIFT FOR MAGIC...
I WAS SO DISGUSTED WITH THEM, I LEFT THE VILLAGE A YEAR BEFORE SHE DID.


ADULTS...
MALICE...
SCARY...
...THOUGH, MENTALLY, SHE WAS MUCH TOUGHER THAN I WAS.
I HEAR SHE AND OUR PARENTS STILL WRITE TO EACH OTHER
IT ACTUALLY MAY NOT HAVE BOTHERED HER MUCH, BUT EVEN SO.
UNTIL SHE STARTED MAGIC SCHOOL...
WELL, NO, UNTIL SHE MET MARCILLE, SHE ALWAYS ATE ALONE.
REMEMBERING IT MAKES MY HEART ACHE.
SINCE THAT WAS THE CASE, I DECIDED I'D NEVER LEAVE HER BEHIND AGAIN.
AT LEAST NOT UNTIL SHE FOUND SOMEONE NEW WHO SHE WANTED TO BE WITH.
GYO (GAPE)
POTA (PLIP)
YEESH. QUIT WHISPERING AND SHUT UP.


WAH!
BA (COLD)
WHAT GIVES? GROSS!
I'M WORKING RIGHT NOW!
I DIDN'T KNOW WHY SHE ALWAYS CAME TO ME.
MYSTERY HERBS...
MYSTERY NUTS...
FALIN ALWAYS BROUGHT ME ALL SORTS OF THINGS.
UNNH!
ボロ
BORO (CRIES)
SHE PROBABLY WANTED TO EAT THEM WITH YOU.
UU!


HISHI (CLING)
ヒシ！
SAGU (RUB)
サグ…
SAGU
サグ…？
IT WON'T BE LONG.
I WANT TO EAT WITH HER AGAIN SOON.
ZUZU (SNURF)


TO MY MIND...
...FALIN IS CURRENTLY BACON AND EGGS.
HMM...
THAT'S FALIN.
THERE'S BACON ON TOP OF THAT EGG.
THEY'RE STUCK TOGETHER, BUT IT SEEMS POSSIBLE TO SEPARATE THEM NEATLY.
WE COMPARED SOULS TO EGGS EARLIER.
FOR THAT REASON, IN IZUTSUMI'S CASE...
...WE'LL NEED TO FIND A MORE CAREFUL, ELABORATE METHOD.
WITH HARD WORK, WE COULD REMOVE ALL THE ADD-INS...
IN CONTRAST, IZUTSUMI IS A MIXED OMELET.
...BUT YOU CAN EASILY IMAGINE HOW RAGGED THAT WOULD LEAVE THE EGG.
HM...
SO YOU'RE SAYING...


BACK THEN...
...I'D PRESERVED SOME OF THE DRAGON MEAT...
...BUT IT ALL REVERTED TO FLESH AND BLOOD AND FUSED WITH FALIN.
...IF WE CUT AWAY THAT DRACONIC LOWER HALF, WE CAN MAKE FALIN HUMAN AGAIN?
CUT!
IT CAN'T POSSIBLY BE THAT SIMPLE.
MEANWHILE, THERE WAS MEAT THAT DID NOT BECOME DRAGON AGAIN.
THE PARTS WE'D EATEN AT DINNER.


ONCE DIGESTED BY ANOTHER CREATURE, MEAT LOSES ITS IDENTITY.
IN THE DUNGEON, WHERE LIFE AND DEATH ARE VAGUE...
...I THINK THAT'S THE ONE CLEAR LAW.
.....
IN THAT CASE, IF WE ATE ALL OF THE DRAGON...
...COULDN'T WE DRIVE THE SOUL ITSELF AWAY?


I THOUGHT YOU'D BE AGAINST IT.
I'M STILL AGAINST RESURRECTING PEOPLE.
I NEVER WOULD'VE EXPECTED THAT OUT OF YOU, SENSHI.
WELL, I...
HA HA.
WHA...?
EAT ALL OF THE DRAGON...
B-BUT THAT WOULD BE...
YOU SIMPLY WANT TO FREE HER FROM THE DUNGEON.
BUT FALIN IS ALIVE NOW.
I'LL GLADLY HELP YOU WITH THAT.


HOW MANY MEALS WOULD THAT TAKE?
THAT IS NOT THE PROBLEM HERE!!!
NO, THAT'S IT EXACTLY !!!
GA (SNAP)
EEP!
THIS IS OUR MOST PROMISING PLAN YET!!
DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER IDEAS !?
YOU EAT WHAT YOU KILL, TO MAKE IT YOURS...
OF COURSE. WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THAT?
IT'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING ALL ALONG!


ONLY...
DO I LOOK LIKE I COULD EAT A KILO?
IN TERMS OF FALIN'S HEALTH TOO, WE'LL NEVER HAVE THAT KIND OF TIME.
IT'S ENORMOUS. IF IT'S OVER THREE TONS...
...AND THE FIVE OF US MANAGE ONE KILO A DAY EACH, IT WILL TAKE CLOSE TO TWO YEARS.
YOU THINK I HAVE FRIENDS?
IT'S NOT AS IF YOU HAVE NONE.
HERE
DOESN'T ANYONE COME TO MIND?
ASK OTHERS TO HELP, THEN.
THIS IS WHERE THE NETWORK YOU'VE BUILT COMES IN.


THE ORCS.
THEY SEEM LIKE THEY'D EAT A LOT, SO THAT'S PROMISING.
THE RESIDENTS OF THE GOLDEN CASTLE.
THEY DON'T HAVE THE BIGGEST APPETITES...
...BUT THEIR NUMBERS AND LIVESTOCK CAN COVER FOR THAT.
THEN THERE'S NAMARI AND SHURO'S GROUP.
IF WE APPEAL TO THEIR EMOTIONS, THOSE TWO WILL COME THROUGH.
WE'LL WHAT?
OH! KABRU ALSO SEEMED INTERESTED IN EATING MONSTERS.


I'D LIKE ANOTHER COMPANY OF SOLDIERS, BUT...
WELL, AT LEAST OUR GOALS ARE CLEAR NOW.
SEE? YOU DO HAVE SOME.
NOWHERE NEAR ENOUGH TO EAT IT ALL.
...AT THE MOMENT, THAT'S ABOUT IT.
1
FREE THE WINGED LION FROM THE DUNGEON'S HEART!!
2
WITH ITS HELP, NEUTRALIZE THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN!!
3
FIND PEOPLE TO HELP US EAT FALIN'S DRAGON PARTS!!
YOU WON'T FIND ANY COMPAN.ES IN THE DUNGEON.
THAT'S GOING TO BE ONE HECK OF A PARTY.
ALL OF A SUDDEN, I FEEL LIKE THIS'LL WORK...


ZOKU
CHAMPURU
ガシッ
IT'S CHANGED QUITE A LOT WHILE YOU WERE DOWN IN IT.
CHANGED?
YOU'LL SEE.
THE AIR IN THE DUNGEON IS STAGNANT.
WHAT IS THIS BAD FEELING?
IT CLINGS TO YOU
WELL, IF NOTHING ELSE...
...I BET THEY'RE CHANGES THE LOT BEHIND US WON'T LIKE.
CHAPTER 52: THE END

# 53. On Floor One -1-




WHA...?
GAYA
GAYA
GAYA
MURMUR
HEY!!!!
OVER HERE!
I'LL CUT YOU A DEAL.
WAA (CHATTER)
WAA
LOOK AT ALL THESE PEOPLE.
WOW...
IT'S CHANGED THIS MUCH IN SUCH A SHORT TIME?


MORE PEOPLE ARE BUNKING DOWN IN HERE.
PEOPLE COME TO TRADE WITH THEM...
...THE ECONOMY TURNS, AND MORE PEOPLE SHOW UP.
THEY SAY THERE'S GOLD EVEN ON FLOOR ONE LATELY...
...SO MORE PEOPLE CAME. THE TOWN'S PACKED.
IT'S JUST LIKE BACK THEN. ALL OF IT.
IF EVEN A FEW MORE PEOPLE COME DOWN HERE, THEN...
—SO?
ZUWA (SHIVER)


YOU WEREN'T EXPECTING THIS CROWD.
WE CAN HELP YOU "REDUCE" IT...
NO NEED.
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO GET ALL OF THEM BACK ABOVE-GROUND?
I'LL GO WITH YOU.
CITHIS, YOU COME TOO.
SURE ♡
YOUR CONNEC-TION. RIGHT.
I'LL ASK THE MAN WHO CONTROLS THE ISLAND'S UNDERBELLY FOR HELP.
HE HAS GREATER CHARISMA AND INFLUENCE HERE THAN THE ISLAND'S LORD.
AND ALSO...
KUI GUDO
PATTADOL, YOU WAIT HERE WITH THE REST.
BOSO (MUTTER)


TOSHIRO. NAMARI.
WHILE I'M GONE, DON'T TAKE YOUR EYES OFF THEM.
THEY MAY BE PLANNING TO CALL REIN-FORCE-MENTS.
WHAT WAS THAT...?
TRYING TO FORCE PEOPLE OUT OF HERE WILL CAUSE NEEDLESS BLOOD-SHED.
WE HAVE TO AVOID THAT.
THANKS.
YOU CAN COUNT ON ME.
CHIRA (GISANCE)
YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD AT USING PEOPLE, HUH?
PLEASE.
COME ON. LET'S GO.
GO WHERE?
NOW, THEN. SHALL WE GO?


CAPTAIN.
ZA (STRIDE)
THAT'S THE ENTRANCE.
YOUR JOB IS EXPLORING DUNGEONS, AND YOUR CAPTAIN HAS NO SENSE OF DIRECTION!?
ARE THEY REALLY THE CANARIES?
ZA


HEE!
WAH! HA!
EVEN CHILDREN ...
KYA HA HA!


KABRU!
IT'S BEEN AGES, MY BOY!
ENTRY RESTRICTED!
WHERE ARE DAYA AND THE OTHERS TODAY?
THEY'RE UP TOP WORKING A FEW OTHER JOBS FOR ME.
PON (THUMP)
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU.
YOU ALWAYS BRING ME LUCK.
YOU'VE BROUGHT SOME INTERESTING FRIENDS TODAY.


THAT'S A VERY DANGEROUS SIGN.
AS YOU KNOW, THE POPULATION HAS INCREASED ABRUPTLY RECENTLY.
OH-HO. WHAT IS IT?
ASK FOR ANYTHING.
I ACTUALLY CAME TO ASK A FAVOR OF YOU.
IN THE END, THE MONSTERS ENGULF THE LAND ABOVE...
...AND MUCH BLOOD IS SPILLED.
AS THE POPULATION GROWS, THE DUNGEON EXPANDS.
SOMETIMES IT GENERATES RICHES, BUT IT ALSO SPAWNS STRONG MONSTERS.
I'VE HEARD OF SUCH THINGS BEFORE.
YOU WERE FROM UTAYA, WEREN'T YOU?
HM...
THAT MUST HAVE BEEN PAINFUL.

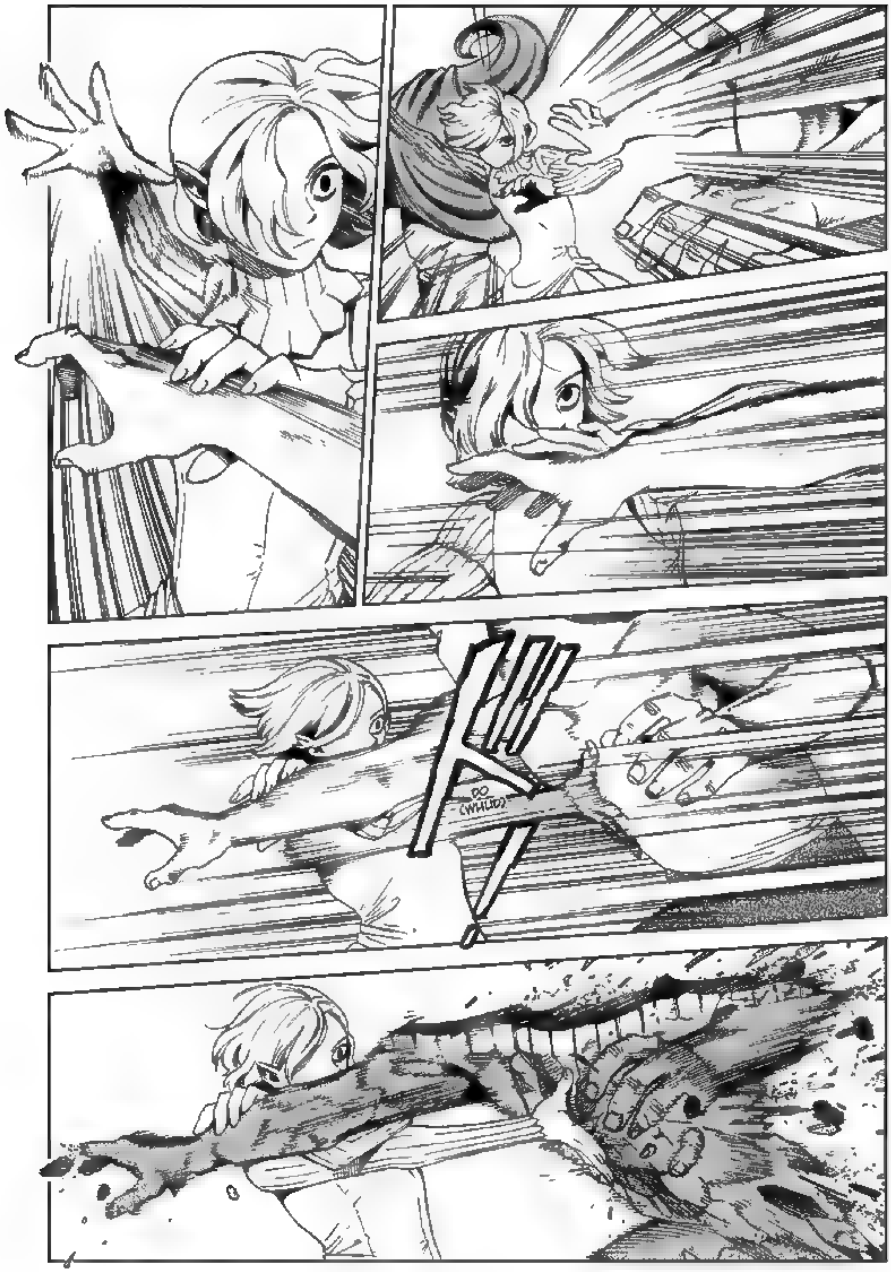

AFTER THAT, THEY CAN RETURN.
IN THE INTERIM, THEIR LIVELIHOODS WILL BE GUARANTEED.
I'D LIKE YOU TO ASK THE PEOPLE IN THE DUNGEON TO EVACUATE.
A TEMPORARY CLOSURE WILL WEAKEN THE DUNGEON.
OH, KABRU.
RAISE YOUR HEAD.
PLEASE, LEND ME YOUR STRENGTH.
I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL.
BUT...


...I DON'T CARE.
WHAT GOOD IS A DUNGEON WITH NOTHING BUT WALKING MUSHROOMS?
IF THE DUNGEON WEAKENS, WILL WE BE ABLE TO HARVEST AS MUCH GOLD AS WE DO NOW?
WHAT OF IT?
EXPANSION, MONSTERS...
NO ONE CAN RUN US OUT OF HERE.
THAT INCLUDES YOU, ELVES.
THE PEOPLE WHO CRAWL AROUND THE DUNGEON...
...AREN'T JUST DOING IT TO EARN THE R DAILY BREAD.
LISTEN, BOY. IN HERE, FELLOWS WHO'VE NEVER ONCE SLEPT UNDER A ROOF...
...CAN EARN ENOUGH TO BUY A SHIP IN A SINGLE NIGHT.


WHAT ARE THE OTHER ELVES DOING?
MMPH!
HAVING FUN SIGHT-SEEING, IT LOOKS LIKE.
BAN-GRAAU
GUU CYANKO
DOING ANYTHING BAD.
WELL, THEY'RE NOT...
I HEAR THEY'RE TOSSING MONEY AROUND AT THE DEMIHUMAN SLAVE MARKET NOW.
THEY'RE BUYING UP MANUSCRIPTS AND INCENSE, TOURING THE FOOD STALLS...
LOOK OVER THERE.
YES, SIR
SIGHT-SEEING...?
WATCH FOR A CHANCE, KILL THEM, THEN SEND THEM TO THEIR FRIENDS ON THE OCEAN.
GUU CYANKO


IT'S A CELL I BUILT.
BEYOND THAT DOOR IS YOUR BELOVED "OUTSIDE."
CORPSES THROWN IN THERE WILL NEVER RESURRECT AGAIN.
WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE HAPPENS IF A BODY IS REVIVED WHEN ONLY HALF OF IT IS IN THE DUNGEON?
THE QUESTION'S BEEN ON MY MIND FOR A WHILE.
SHOULD I TEST IT ON YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS?
USHK!
DO CHUUD
HEE HEE HEE!
YOU NEVER SHOULD HAVE LANDED, HUH?
BERORI (LICK)
OH. HE'S...
THE DUN-GEON'S ALREADY ...


SURA (TILT)
PARA (CRUMBL)
パラ…
DOSHA (SSSSHD
BORO (CRUMB...E)
BORO
KILL IT!
DON'T LET THAT ELF POCHI!
ZAHAH (CALCIMINED)
WHY, YOU...
PETRIFI-CATION MAGIC!?
わっ


KII
DO (WHILE)

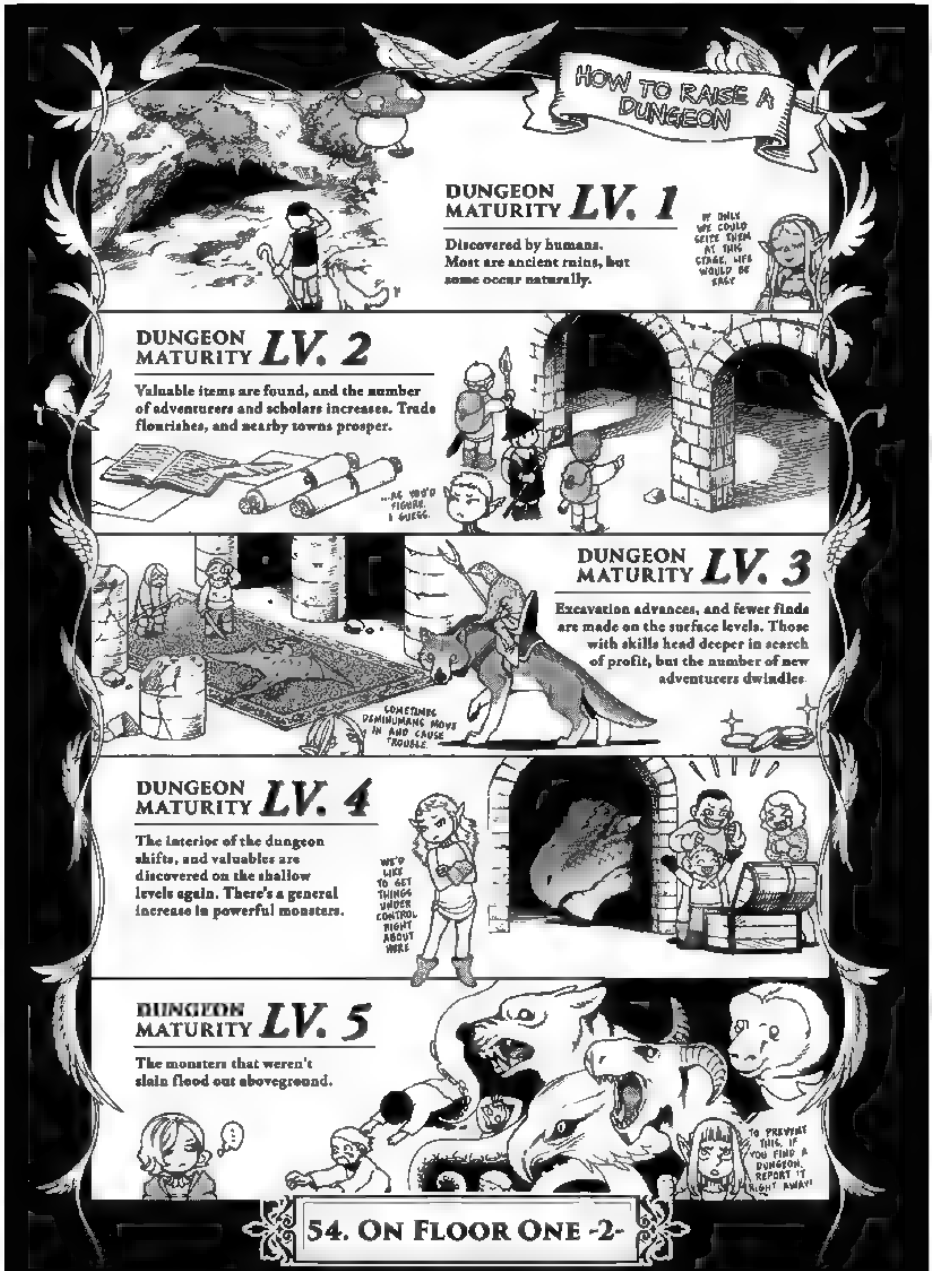

GUWA (LOOM)
GYURU (TWIRL)
GU (PUSH)
GOTO (CLUNK)
TON (TAP)
FU (FFT)
PAN (SMAK)


JUST THE LEGS...!
SOME-THING'S OFF.
UU...
UHHHH.
IT'S NOT PET-RIFICATION MAGIC...?


LET ME DOWN...
UU.
TELEPORTATION AND NO SENSE OF DIRECTION. THAT'S AN AWFUL COMBINATION.
THERE'S NO TELLING...
...WHERE YOU'LL END UP.
ZOOO (SHUDDER)
BINGO.
TELEPORTATION...
THEY WERE SWITCHED WITH THE STONE IN THE WALLS, AND THE RESULT WAS HUMAN-SHAPED ROCKS?


FUWA (FLOAT)
All is ready.
MM.
WHAT DID YOU DO TO THE PEOPLE OUT THERE?
DOES THIS MEAN YOU WERE NEVER INTERESTED IN MY PROPOSAL?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THEY'RE DONE.
LET'S GO.
ONCE A PERSON'S TRAPPED BY THEIR DESIRE FOR THE DUN-GEON...
...NO WORDS WILL GET THROUGH.
GWEH!
UU FU FU!
...YOUR TRUSTED CONNECTION'S HEART HAD ALREADY BEEN DEVOURED.
IT'S A SHAME...


PEOPLE BLINDED BY THE MONEY WILL RUSH TO THEM...
...AND GREED WILL SWELL UP IN THE DUNGEON.
BUT IF THEY DO THAT—
YES.
OUT THERE...
...I ORDERED THE CANARIES TO MAKE A DISPLAY OF SPENDING MONEY...
...AND TO DISTRIBUTE IT AS UNFAIRLY AS THEY COULD.
IF WORDS WON'T GET THROUGH, WE'LL JUST SHOW THEM...
...WHAT HAPPENS TO A DUNGEON THAT'S CONSUMED TOO MUCH DESIRE.
ONCE THEY'VE SEEN THAT, THEY'LL BE THRILLED TO HEAD BACK TO THE SURFACE.




## 54. On Floor One -2-


WAA (CLAMOR)
YOU OKAY?
DON? (WHUD?)
MOVE IT!
DOTA (FWLMP)


I THOUGHT YOU PEOPLE DID SOMETHING.
I DUNNO. THE ELVES WERE SHOPPING, AND THEN IT GOT NOISY OUT OF NOWHERE.
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON?
IF WE DON'T CALM THEM, SOMEONE'S GOING TO GET HURT.
THE CROWD'S GOT THE EXIT BLOCKED UP.
HURRY AND GO!
DON'T PUSH!
DO (RABL)
AAAAAAH!


ドドド
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
(RUMBLE)
WALKING MUSH-ROOMS!?
BOKKO (THUNCH)
ZUMM! (STOMP)
THEY SAY PARTIES SHOULD HAVE SIX MEMBERS AT MOST.
THE ELVES MUST HAVE KNOWN THIS WOULD HAPPEN, AND YET...
THERE WERE TOO MANY PEOPLE IN ONE PLACE.
MOSU (THUNK)
BOSU (WOOSH)
I'VE NEVER SEEN A HERD THIS BIG BEFORE.
MUGYU (GRRNGW)
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS?
GUI (SHOVE)
GUI
POKO (POP)
POKO


NIKO (SMILE)
THE ONE THING MORE PRECIOUS THAN MONEY IS A PERSON'S LIFE.
BUT NOW EVERYONE WANTS TO GO ABOVE-GROUND.
!!
WAA!
EEE!
STILL, EVEN IF THERE ARE A LOT OF THEM, THIS SEEMS LIKE AN OVERREACTION. THEY'RE JUST WALKING MUSHROOMS...
ZURIRI
ズリ
ZURI
ズリ
ZURI (SHUFFLE)


ZUNUNU (LOOM)
ズヌヌ
IT'S HUGE!!
AND THOSE SPORES.
BLECH! GROSS.
MYCELIA ARE SPREADING FROM ITS FEET AND MULTIPLY-ING.
ZONA
NOKO (POP)


ウゴ
UGO GOOHO
ゴゴゴ
GOGOGO
ブシュ
BUSHU (PSHOO)
KOFF...
あ
あ
GOTO (CLANK)
MOAAAA (FWOOSH)
もあ
KOFF
KOFF
HCK!
PATTADOL, CAST A BARRIER AROUND THE EXIT.
R-RIGHT.
ギュ (SQUEEZE)
NOHHH...
NOW IT'S SAFE IN HERE.
BUNYA (BOOM)


EEP!
BAH (BAM)
IT'S THIS MAN!
TOPU (BLOOP)
AH! HEY!!
URK!
TH—
THERE MAY BE, BUT I CAN'T TELL WHO IT—
THERE'S SOMEONE WHO HASN'T INHALED SPORES OUT THERE!
BE ME INNN
AAH
THANK YOU. THANK YOU...
BWAH!
OH, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!!
SUPO (POP)


HOW DID YOU KNOW?
HOW ...?
YOU CAN SEE IT IN THEIR FACES.
.....
CAPTAIN MITHRUN.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT GIANT MUSH-ROOM.
BY BURNING IT..
OR TEARING IT APART..
NO. ME.
NO. I'LL DO IT.
UU...
WHAT DO WE DO WITH THIS?
OTTA. A FOOT-HOLD.
RIGHT.
PITA (TOUCH)
ぴた…
BIGHI (ZAP)
BOKO (CRUNCH)
ボコ


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(GU
STRIKE)
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STRIKE)
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(DA
CLEAR)


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GUO
(FOOMO
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(DO
(WHUD)
ッ！


PA (SPLASH)
TOPUN (BLUP)
FU
GYP
WATER !!?
DOBOA (BLOOSH)


KERSPLAGIO
IT MAKES THE CLEANUP ROUGH
DON'T SEND THEM ANYWHERE TOO RANDOM, OKAY?
CAPTAIN, C'MON...
STILL, THAT SETTLES THINGS FOR NOW.
PHEW
GOOD GRIEF...
ZUZUN
ズズン
ズン
ZUN (BOOM)
RIP
IT'S IN THE WATER ON FLOOR FOUR, HM?
PUKAA (BOB)


ZUNNNNNNNN (LOOM)
ズ
ヌ
ヌ
ヌ
LOOK OUT!!
GUH (YAH!)
AH!
AGAIN !?
TWO OF 'EM THIS TIME!?


GUA (BOOM)
DO (STOMP)
SUPO (POP)
DOH
IT WASN'T THE MUSH-ROOMS THINKING!
THAT...
...WAS CLEARLY AIMED AT ME.
HAAH...


SOMEONE IS HERE RIGHT NOW...
...CONTROLLING THE MUSHROOMS AND WATCHING ALL OF THIS!

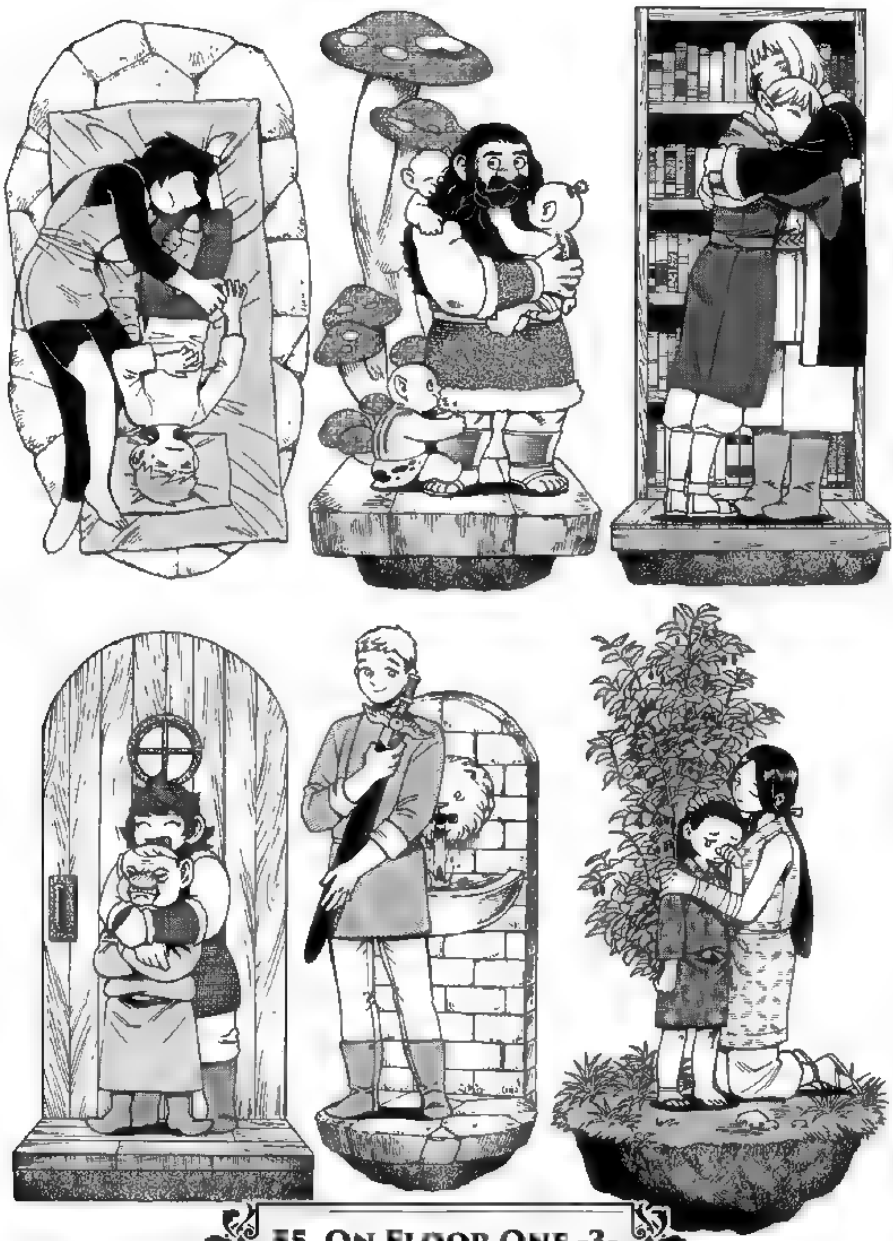

THE LORD...
YOU MEAN THE LUNATIC MAGI-CIAN?
AS WE THOUGHT, HE MUST HAVE SENSED THE CHAOS AND COME HERE.
THE LORD OF THE DUN-GEON.
YES.
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU MEAN...


YOU.
CAN YOU SEE ANYONE ABNORMAL IN THAT CROWD?
GASHI (GRAB)
ガシ
UM...
GURURI (TWIST)
IN THE THIN MANA NEAR THE SURFACE, HE WON'T HAVE MUCH POWER.
I'D LIKE TO MAKE OUR MOVE HERE.
THERE'S A GOOD POSSIBILITY, CONSIDERING.
HE'S HERE NOW?
THE DUNGEON LORD IS IN THE CROWD?


HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE NEAR THE BARRIER, AT ANY RATE.
I CAN'T SEE WHAT THINGS ARE LIKE FARTHER BACK.
AAH...
UWAAH
LOOK FROM THERE AND DECIDE.
...I'LL TELEPORT BOTH OF US UP ONTO THAT PILLAR.
ALL RIGHT.
TON (PAT)
IN THAT CASE...
GYU (SQUEEZE)
HERE WE GO.
NO, UM—
LET'S JUST NOT, OKAY?
NOOOOO!
I MESSED UP.
ZUMOMO (CROWD)
ZUMO


GAIKI
JUST LOOK AT THE PEOPLE.
UUU...
AGH!!


..THERE'S JUST ONE PERSON..
IN ALL THIS CONFUSION...
THAT ONE...
...!?
..WHO ISN'T TERRIFIED...
...OR DAZED FROM INHALING SPORES.
BA (POINT)
THAT'S HIM.
THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN!



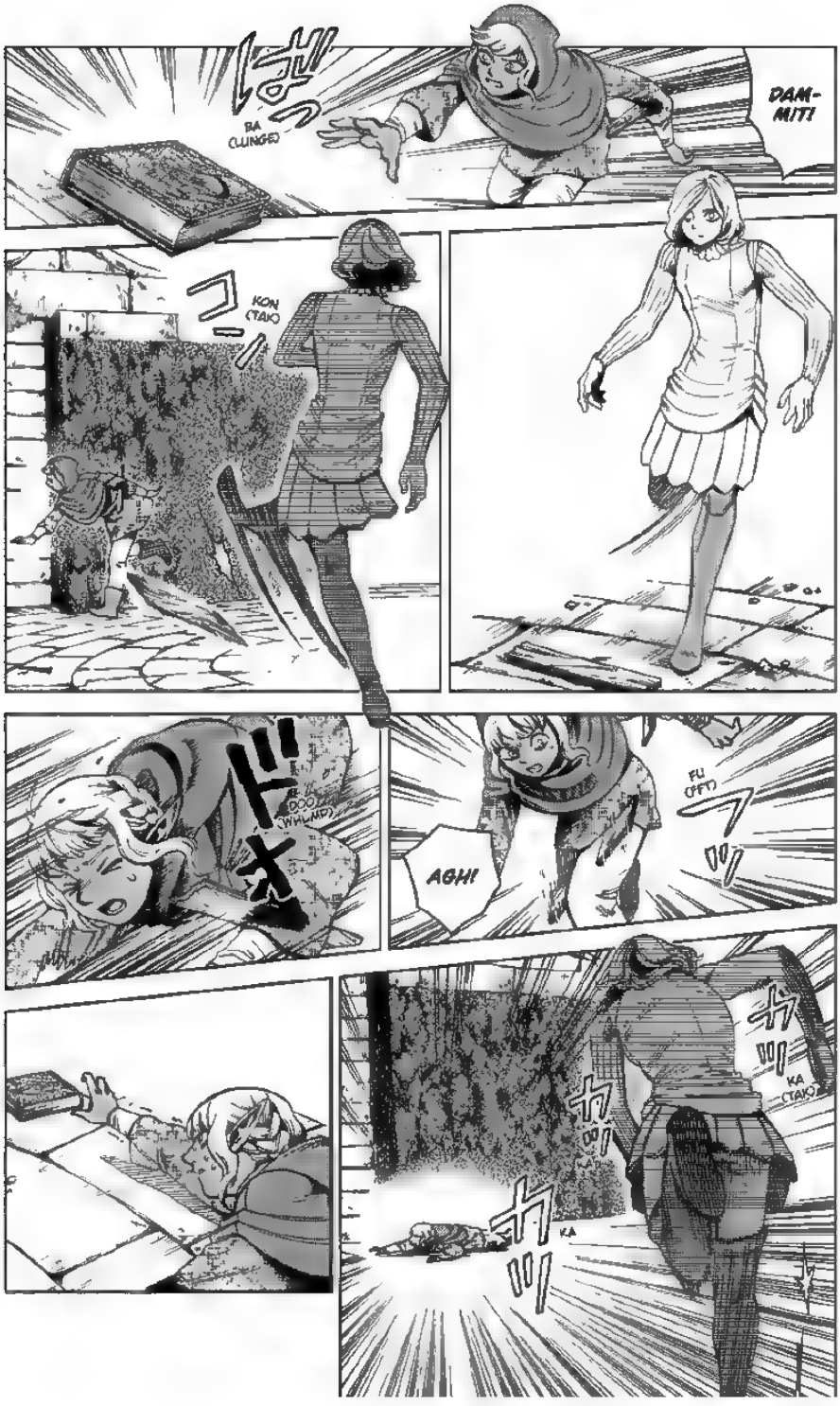
## 55. On Floor One -3-


THAT'S THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN...
HE LOOKS...
...MUCH TOO NORMAL.
YOU KNOW, I COULD BE WRONG.
.....
GOCHIN (CLONK)
DON (WHAM!)
WHOA!
BESIDES, HE'S USING THE DUNGEON'S POWER TO PROLONG HIS LIFE.
THAT MEANS, IF WE THROW HIM UP TOP, WE'LL KNOW.
IN THE THIN MAGIC NEAR THE SURFACE, EVEN THAT WON'T GO WELL.
ALL THE DUNGEON'S LORD CAN DO...
...IS CONTROL ITS LAYOUT AND MONSTERS.


LORD OF THE DUNGEON FOUND.
GOT IT.
You pin down the giant mushrooms.
I'll do it.
FUWA (FLOAT)
TCK. TCK
AND THEN THE DUNGEON...
THEY'LL PROBABLY GET THE DUNGEON UNDER CONTROL.
WE CAN'T MATCH THEM IN KNOWLEDGE, EXPERIENCE, OR SKILL.
THEIR SKILLS HAVE BEEN HONED SPECIFICALLY FOR CONQUERING DUNGEONS.
OKAY. LET'S DO THIS.
HALF OF THE CANARIES ARE CRIMINALS WHO GOT INVOLVED WITH ANCIENT MAGIC.
SFX: GOKI (KRIK) GOKI
...WILL FALL INTO THE ELVES' HANDS.
ZA (SHF)
~FU... (FFT)
KATSUN
KATSUN
KATSUN (TAK)


MIYOU
!
ON IT
OTTAI
!
ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ
ゴゴ


GOTO (THUNK)
PU (PFT)
BA (PWIP)
BUGHH (SPLURT)
YAUGH!
YOU MADE MY FLESH AND THE WOOD SWITCH PLACES?
TELE-PORTA-TION?
BOTO (PLOP)
BASA (RUSTLE)


BA (CLUNGE)
DAM-MIT!
KON (TAK)
DOO (WHUMP)
AGH!
FU (FFT)
KA (TAK)
KA
KA


GUI (YANK)
BON (BLUNT)
I LOOKED INTO YOUR RECORDS.
SISSEL, THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN.
DON'T STRUGGLE.
I'LL SEND YOU TO THE SURFACE.
UGK...
BACHI (SNAP)
NGH!
SET IT FREE.
DELGAL, THE KING YOU'RE OBSESSED WITH, FLED ABOVEGROUND AND TURNED TO DUST.
YOU HAVE NO REASON TO PROTECT THE CASTLE NOW.
GU (GRIP)
LISTEN.
GYO (SHOCK)
HUH!?


THAT'S JUST WHAT YOU THOUGHT.
...AND THE LIVES OF HIS PEOPLE.
HE SAID HE WANTED ME...
...TO PROTECT HIM...
DELGAL ASKED ME FOR THIS.
THAT CAN'T BE.
IN HIS LAST MOMENTS, I HEAR HE WISHED FOR YOUR DEATH.
HERE, SURROUNDED BY MONSTERS?
DID THE KING WISH FOR ETERNAL LIFE?
THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO SAY IT...
LET ME DO IT...
YOU CALL THAT PERSUASION!?


LIES.
LIES.
LIES!
...YOU'RE LYING.
JI (PIZ!)
BISHI (CRACK)
LIIIIES!
バギ
BAGI! (CRACK)
ビシ
BISHI
BISHI (CRIK)

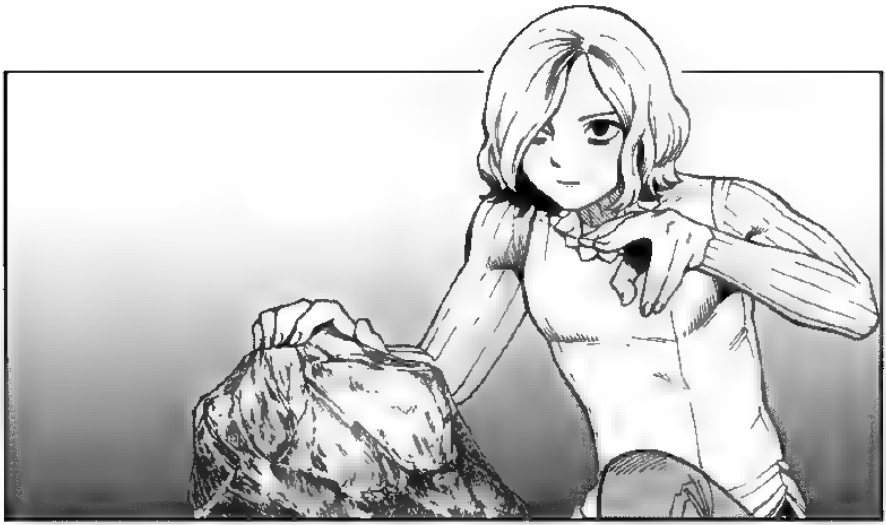

ガブ
DOSAA
GRUNCH


KSHH!
KSHH!


DOM (WHUMP)
FU (OFF)
SA (WHUMP)


HEY, ISN'T THAT FALI—?
MMF!
OH MY. HE CALLED A CHIMERA.
WHAT A FOOL! TO A PLACE WITH MAGIC THIS THIN!?
KFF!
KOFF!
WHEEZE..
WHEEZE
SUTON (PLUMP)


SU (SHF)
KOTSU (TAK)
KOTSU
.....
FU
FU OFF?!!!
GO (WHUNK)
FOR SOMEONE WITH ONE EYE, A HIT THAT CLOSE IS AMAZING.
SHOW SOME RESPECT!
WENT FOR THE BRAIN, HM?
BWA HA HA!
WHAT A LOUSY SHOT!
ONE CLEAN HIT THERE WOULD DO IT, BUT I DUNNO...




HAFF...
HAFF...


SO SCATTERING MONEY AND FANNING PASSIONS WAS ALL A STRATEGY TO LURE HIM TO THE FIRST FLOOR SO THEY COULD FIGHT HERE.
HEH.
I SEE.
PRETTY AMAZING. THAT'S JUST LIKE THEM.




THE MAGIC'S SO THIN SHE CAN'T MOVE.
IS IT LIKE NOT HAVING ENOUGH OXYGEN?


YOU PEOPLE SEEM TO KNOW THAT CHIMERA.
...THAT'S RIGHT.
WE'LL WANT THE DETAILS LATER, SO DON'T GO ANY-WHERE.
WE'RE NOT DONE YET. DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN.
ONCE WE'RE FINISHED HERE, LET'S GET SOME FOOD IN TOWN.
WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE SURE CAPTAIN MITHRUN EATS SOON.
...SO ONCE YOU'RE NABBED, IT'S HARD TO GET AWAY.
ALL RIGHT. WE'LL TALK AGAIN IN TWO YEARS.
IT WON'T BE CONSIDERED A GRAVE CRIME...
...BUT ELVES' SENSE OF TIME RUNS SLOWLY...
NO. UH...
OH, RIGHT. THAT'S ANOTHER PROBLEM.
THEY'LL TAKE US TO THE WEST.
AND RIN...
ALL HER MEMORIES OF THE ELVES ARE NASTY ONES, SO I'D FEEL BAD FOR HER.
I WANT TO HELP HER GET AWAY SOME-HOW.
SHE MAY WANT ME TO LIVE THERE PERMANENTLY.
THINGS WILL GET TIRESOME AFTER THAT, THOUGH.
IF SHE PUTS IN A WORD FOR ME, THEY'LL RELEASE ME PROMPTLY.
I HAVE A FOSTER MOTHER.
SHE TAKES IN CHILDREN FROM OTHER RACES AS A HOBBY.


AS FOR LAIOS'S GROUP ...
WELL, IT'S ALL RIGHT LIKE THIS.
IF SHE'S LUCKY, SHE'LL BE ASSIGNED TO THE CANARIES INSTEAD.
SHE'S THE ONLY ONE THEY'LL PUT TO DEATH.
IF NOT, THEY'LL BE TOSSED OUT WITH JUST A LITTLE LIFE LEFT.
IF THEY'RE LUCKY, THEY'LL DIE OF OLD AGE IN PRISON.
IT WON'T BE A FEW YEARS FOR THEM.
IT'S ALL RIGHT THIS WAY.
TRYING TO DO SOMETHING WITH IT...
...WAS HOPELESS FOR SHORT-LIVED RACES FROM THE START.
...AND THE ELVES ARE THE BEST ONES TO MANAGE THE DUNGEON.
WE'VE AVOIDED MAKING ANOTHER UTAYA...


...IS THIS REALLY ALL RIGHT!?
HFF...
HFF...
MOVE.
IF YOU DIE THERE, YOU'LL CRUSH YOUR MASTER.
PLEASE WAIT!!
GU (GRIP)
.....

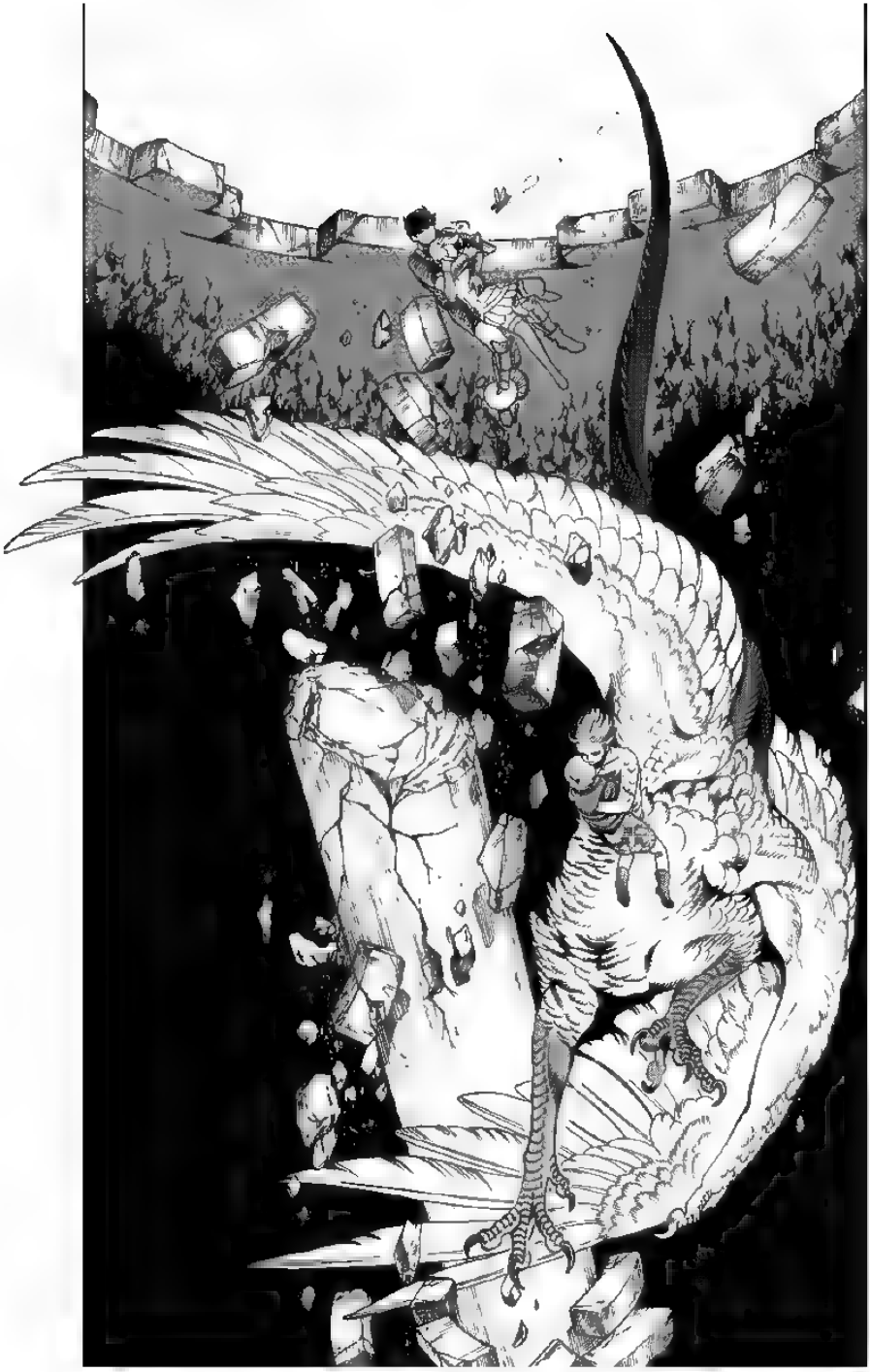

FU (FFT)
UU!
GA (GRAB)
ガッ
FU (UU)
DOSU (THUNK)
ドス
THAT WAS CLOSE !!!
WHY DID THAT HAPPEN TO UTAYA ABOVEGROUND WHERE MAGIC WAS THIN?
WHY IS A NORMAL PERSON THE DUNGEON'S LORD!?
TELL ME.
WHY IS BLACK MAGIC KEPT SECRET?
NO.
I REALLY CAN'T ACCEPT THIS!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
LET GO.
YOU PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS LIKE THAT!
YOU EXPLAIN NOTHING AND TAKE EVERYTHING!!
CALM DOWN.
WE ONLY WANT TO SHIELD YOUNG RACES FROM DANGER.
DON'T TALK AS IF YOU'RE SOOTHING A CHILD!

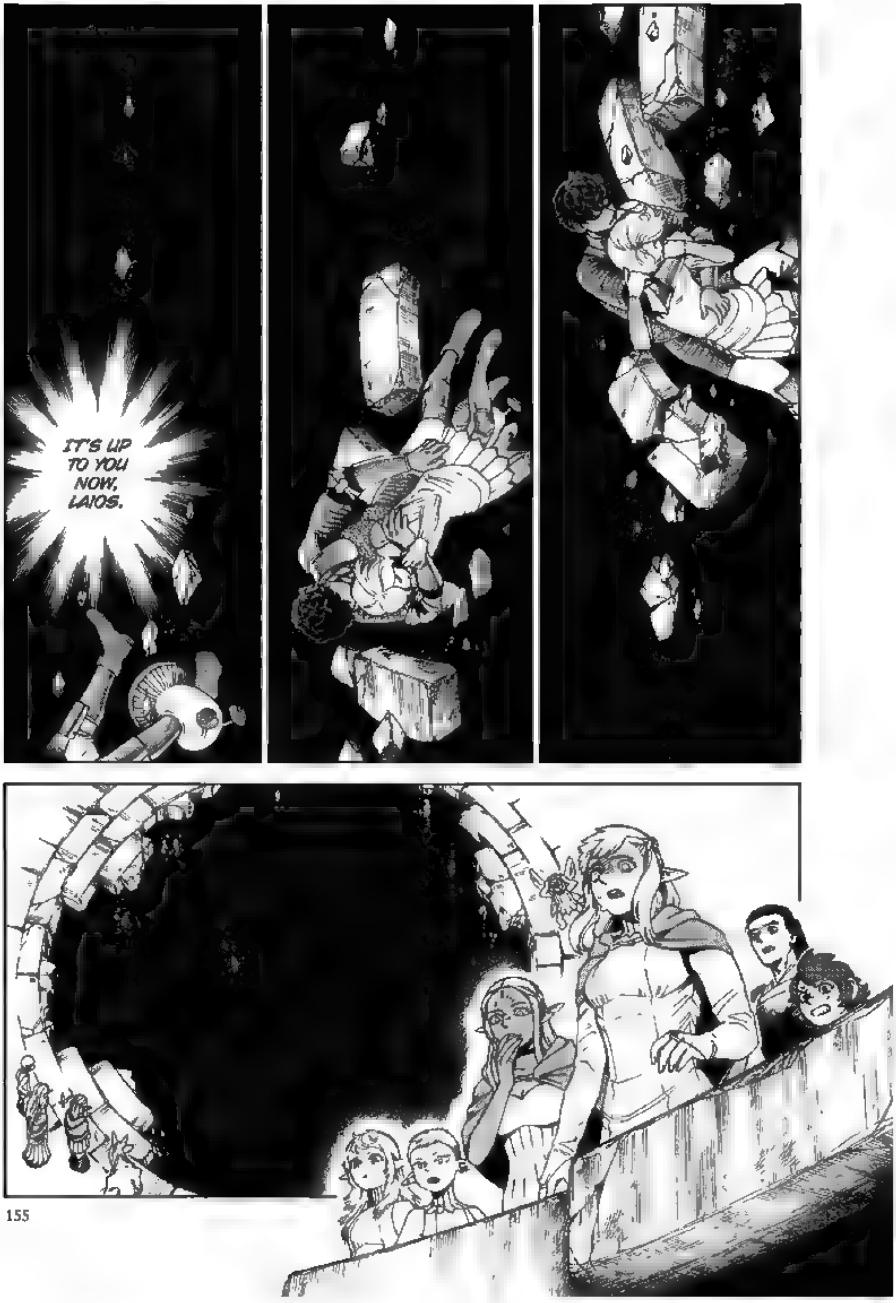

WE'LL CONQUER THIS DUNGEON!
IT HAS TO BE US!
HURRY AND GO!
KOKURI (NOV)
コク
.....
CHIRIN (TING)
チリン…
もぞ
MOZO (SQUIRM)


PACHIRI
CRUNCH
BA
-(VWP)
OH.
CRUD.


ZUN
(RUMBLE)
BOKO
(GRUNCH)
BISHI
BISHI
(KRIK)
BISHI
GYUU
(SQUEEZE)
YORO
(STAGGER)


[redacted] THAN DYING BURIED IN A WALL.
LET GO.
YOU'LL FALL AND DIE.
THE FLOOR'S CRUMBLING!
HE'S TRYING TO FLEE UNDERGROUND.
OR...
...IS THERE SOMEONE ELSE?
WEREN'T YOU GOING TO CONQUER THE DUNGEON?
IT WON'T HAPPEN IF YOU'RE DEAD.
GARA
GARA (RATTLE)
GARA




IT'S UP TO YOU NOW, LAIOS.


MEAN-WHILE, LAIOS AND COMPANY WERE...
WOW. WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT?
ZAN (ZSH)
A GIANT CHANGELING WALKING MUSHROOM.
FLOORS WHERE YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT ARE SCARY.
.....
.....
...OUR BODIES GOT CHANGED AGAIN.
WE BEAT IT SOMEHOW, BUT...
MARCILLE
SENSHI
IZUTSUMI
CHILCHUCK
LAIOS


WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE BATHS.
FOR NOW, LET'S RINSE OFF THE SPORES AND CHANGE BACK.
DWARF
GNOME
HALF-FOOT
ORC


.....BY THE WAY, WHAT DID MARCILLE TURN INTO?
A TROLL?
PROBABLY AN OGRE.
SHURO'S GROUP HAD ONE, REMEMBER?
SHE'S GOT HORNS TOO


I'M MAKING A CURE.
ズン ズン
ZUN ZUN (STOMP)
I REFUSE TO TRANSFORM EVERY TIME WE RUN INTO THESE THINGS.
OOH.
I UNDERSTAND HOW THEY WORK. BASICALLY


ギコ
GIKO (SAW)
GIKO
ギコ
GIKO
ギコ

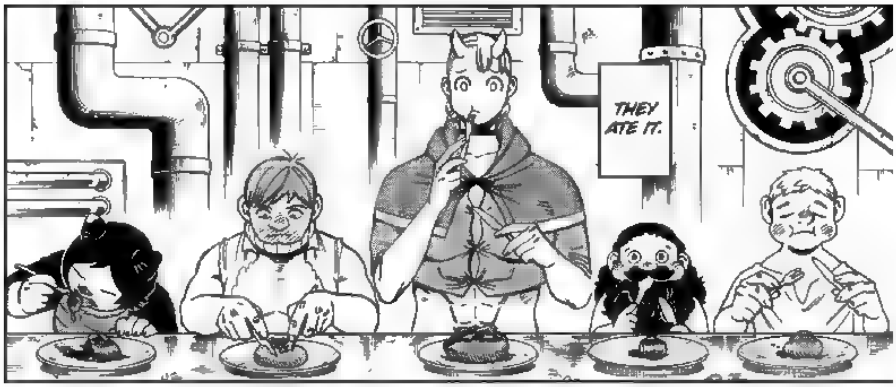

I'LL HELP!
ズン ズン
ZUN ZUN
WOW, WHAT A STURDY BACK.


SLOWLY REDUCE UNTIL THICK WHILE CHANTING A SPELL.
SHE'S A WITCH.
BUTSU (MUTTER)
BUTSU
BUTSU

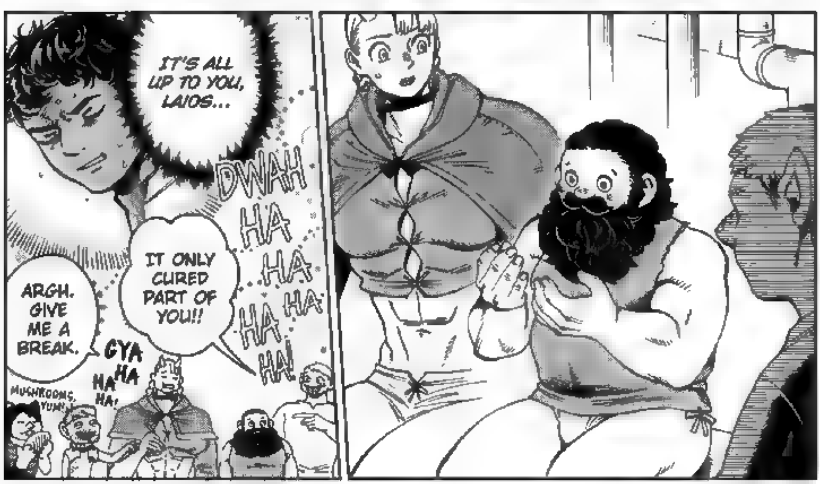

ADD GIANT FROG SKIN, MANDRAKE ROOT, ALCOHOL, AND BUTTER (OR OIL).
CUT AWAY THE BACK OF THE MUSHROOM CAP.


GASSH!
GASSH (KNEAD)
GASSH!
がっし
がっし
がし
...ADD ONION, EGG, SHREDDED BREAD, AND SEASONINGS AND MIX UNTIL ELEMENTS ARE EVENLY INCORPORATED.
GIMME THAT.
COMBINE GROUND MINOTAUR AND HIPPO-GRIFF MEAT...
LET'S MAKE SOMETHING WHILE WE'RE WAITING.
CAREFUL NNH...
MINCE ONIONS, THEN SAUTÉ UNTIL CARAMEL-COLORED.
JYUUU (SIZZZ)
DENT THE CENTERS SLIGHTLY, THEN HEAT IN A FRYING PAN.
ONCE THEY'RE COOKED THROUGH...
...AND SHAPE IT, STRIKING THE AIR OUT.
PECHIN (SPAK)
PECHIN
TAKE OUT A PALMFUL ...
じゅわ
JYUWAAA (SIZZZ)
...BOIL DOWN A BIT, AND...
DOBAA (SLOOSH)
REMOVE THE MEAT, MIX MARCILLE'S MEDICINE AND SEASONINGS WITH THE REMAINING MEAT JUICES...
さら?
SASA (SCUTTLE)
PHEW!
I'LL LET IT COOL FOR A BIT.


HAMBURG STEAK WITH CHANGELING SAUCE
[HAMBURGER]
Ingredients
Mixed ground meat—750 g
Egg—1
Onion—1
Bread crumbs and seasonings—To taste
IT'S DONE!
ENERGY
PROTEIN
FAT
CARBS
CALCIUM
IRON
VITAMIN A
VITAMIN B2
VITAMIN C
[MUSHROOM SAUCE]
Ingredients
Changelings—500 g
Giant frog skin—A little
Mandrake root—A little
Butter and seasonings—As needed
AH!
LOOKS TASTY.
WOW! THAT SMELLS GOOD!
WHAT I MADE IS AN OINTMENT !!
...IZUTSUMI WOULD NEVER DRINK A MEDICINE LIKE THAT, SO I...
HM?
WELL...
EXCUSE ME!? DID YOU COOK WITH THE MEDICINE I MADE!?
I MEAN...
HAVE MERCY!
AAAAH!


THEY ATE IT.

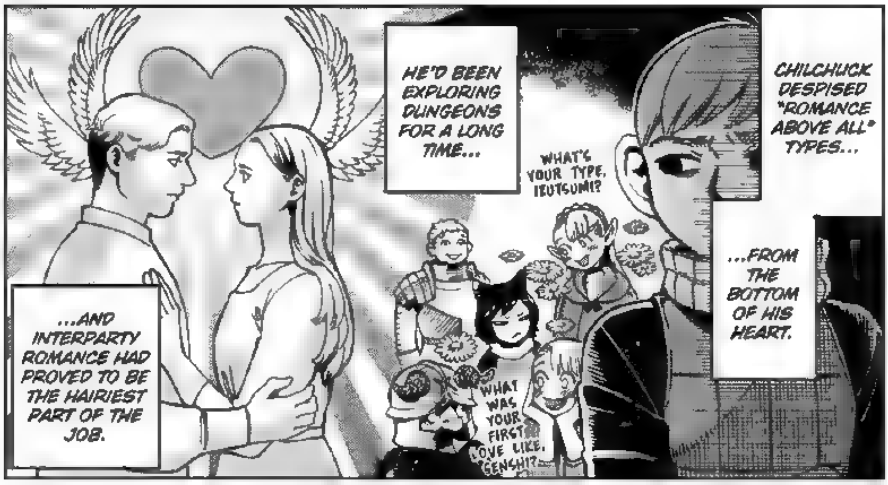

WHAT'S WRONG, SENSHI!?
THERE, SEE!? WHAT DID I TELL YOU!?
"DOKUN" (BADMP)
UU!
THE MUSH-ROOMS SUPPORT THE MEAT NICELY.
DELICIOUS.

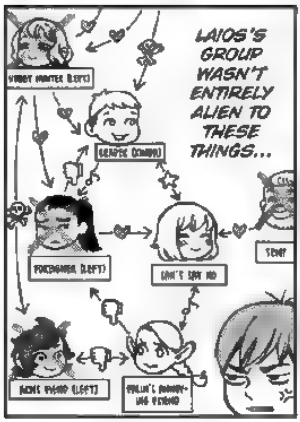

IT'S ALL UP TO YOU, LAIOS...
DWAH HA HA HA HA HA!
IT ONLY CURED PART OF YOU!!
ARGH. GIVE ME A BREAK.
GYA HA HA HA!
MUSHROOMS, YUM!






SO, LISTEN...
BREAKFAST TODAY: PORRIDGE WITH MILK AND NUTS
...WHAT SORT OF PERSON IS YOUR WIFE?
CHIL-CHUCK WAS SEEING RED.
CHAPTER 56
HOW DID YOU PRO-POSE?
WHAT DO YOU CALL EACH OTHER!?
HOW DID YOU MEET?
WHAT DREW YOU TO HER?
IS SHE PRETTY? OR CUTE?
NO, BUT...
CHEATED.
CHEATED..
CHEATED.
CHEATED?
SO FROM NOW ON!!
BECAUSE I CHEATED ON HER!!
NEVER!! EVER!! BRING THAT UP AGAIN!!!
I TOLD YOU, WE'RE TOTAL STRANG-ERS NOW!!
SHUT UP!!!


HE'D BEEN EXPLORING DUNGEONS FOR A LONG TIME...
WHAT'S YOUR TYPE, IZUTSUMI?
CHILCHUCK DESPISED "ROMANCE ABOVE ALL" TYPES...
...FROM THE BOTTOM OF HIS HEART.
...AND INTERPARTY ROMANCE HAD PROVED TO BE THE HAIRIEST PART OF THE JOB.
WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST LOVE LIKE, SENSHI?


LAIOS'S GROUP WASN'T ENTIRELY ALIEN TO THESE THINGS...
SENPAI (CHARM)
SCOUT


BONDS FORGED BY OVERCOMING HARDSHIP TOGETHER...
CHILCHUCK AS A NEWBIE
...FELL APART OVERNIGHT, AND THE SENSE OF FUTILITY LEFT SCARS.


YEAH, BOTH ME AND FALIN. (BUT WE BROKE IT OFF.)
HUH!? FIANCÉE!!?
THE FACT THAT HIS EARLIER CONFESSION HAD PIQUED HER CURIOSITY IN A BIG WAY...
...AND THE FACT THAT SHE WAS ONE OF "THOSE PEOPLE"...
...IRKED CHIL-CHUCK.


...BUT LATELY, THAT DYNAMIC HAD VANISHED, AND THINGS HAD BEEN PLEASANT.


56. BICORN
THE GOLDEN CITY
S-sorry to keep you waiting...
BURST OUT LAUGHING
TELL HER SHE'S PRETTY
If you're free, let's go grab a drink.
AGREE.
REFUSE.
FLOOR 5
FLOOR 3
SAY NOTHING.
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU GUYS
But kuro—!!
STOP HER
I'll recover you. Hold out your hand.
HOLD IT OUT
SQUEEZE HER HAND
SAY NOTHING
LET THEM DO WHAT THEY WANT


THIS IS...
DOW!


WE CAN'T AVOID COMBAT, THOUGH.
WE'LL HAVE TROUBLE WITH AERIAL ATTACKS.
WAS THAT TROLLEY HOW THEY GOT AROUND?
THE RUINS OF AN ANCIENT DWARF CITY?
WHAT AN AMAZING PLACE

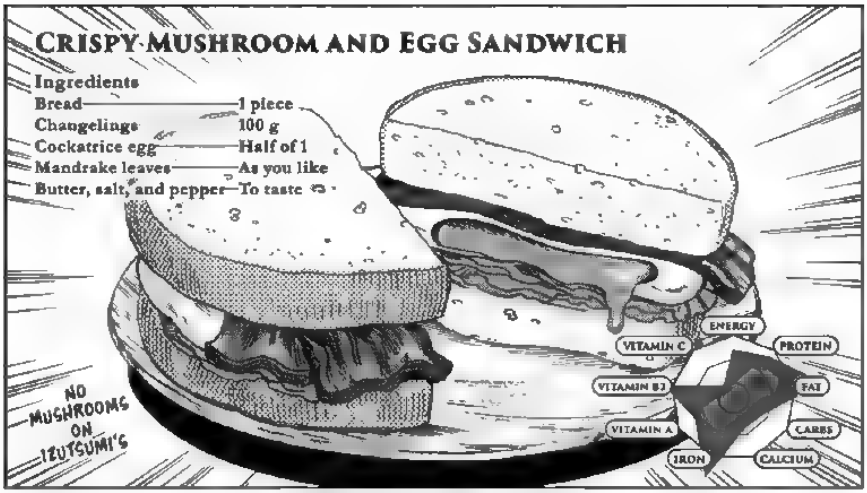

...WHO KNOWS WHAT SORT OF MONSTERS LIVE HERE.
THAT SAID...
YOU'RE RIGHT.
WE'LL HAVE TO HUNT SOON.
YESTERDAY'S HAMBURGER WAS THE LAST OF OUR MEAT.
GOAT?
BEFORE WE EAT RATS, I'D RATHER HAVE THAT GOAT.
I HATE RATS!
THEY TASTE NASTY.
I BET THERE ARE RATS, BUT...
MOZO-PUZZY
NO, THAT'S...
A COW?
SHE'S RIGHT. SOMETHING'S THERE.


IT'S A BICORN!
FRANKLY, "GOOD" ISN'T DEFINED WELL, AND I'M NOT SURE WHAT IT MEANS.
...OR SO I HEAR.
UNICORNS LOVE INTEGRITY AND PURITY. IN CONTRAST...
...BICORNS HATE GOODNESS, PREFERRING CORRUPTION AND IMMORALITY.
A BICORN?
Unicorn
Bicorn
I'D RATHER TAKE IT DOWN QUIETLY.
THAT ISN'T A GREAT IDEA HERE.
WANT TO BLOW IT UP?

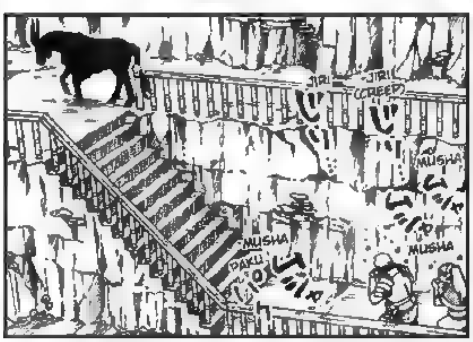

AW! IT'S LEAVING.
OH! IT LOOKED THIS WAY.
SO COOL...
ピク
PIKU
TWITCH
HMMMMM...
IF IT WON'T COME TO US, IT'LL BE HARD TO CATCH IT.
...DO WE NEED TO BE CORRUPT?
WEIRD.
IT'S NOT INTERESTED IN US.
I HEAR THEY'RE FIERCE MONSTERS, BUT...
A DEPRAVED ...
...ADULT MAN...
IN THAT CASE, TO CATCH A BICORN, YOU MUST NEED A DEPRAVED ADULT MAN!
HUH?
TO CATCH A UNICORN, YOU USE A PURE YOUNG GIRL.

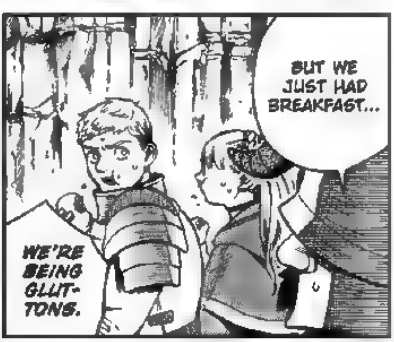

THEN I'LL TRY GETTING CLOSE TO IT, JUST TO SEE.
WAKU (GIDDY)
WAKU
NO ONE STOPS HIM.
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME?
THERE'S NO WAY I'M DOING THAT.
JIRI (CREEP)
JIRI
THAT'S RIGHT, GOOD...
JIRI
PIKU (TWITCH) PIKU
YOU'RE A BICORN, AREN'T YOU?
JIRI
AH. HELLO...
APPROACH SLOWLY, TALKING AS YOU GO


ぱっ
PA (BOLT)
ぱかっ
PAKA (KACLOP)
ぱかっ
PAKA
ぱかっ
PAKA
AAH...!
IT RAN AWAY.
AM I NOT DEPRAVED ENOUGH?
WELL? WHAT DO WE DO?
THERE'S NOTHING FOR IT.
WE'LL HAVE TO BECOME CORRUPT.
HOW DO WE DO THAT?
SEVERAL THINGS ARE CONSIDERED VERY SINFUL.
ENVY, GREED, PRIDE, SLOTH, INFIDELITY, WRATH, GLUTTONY ...
IF WE PRACTICE THOSE...
...THE BICORN MAY ACKNOWL-EDGE US.
WE'LL START WITH GLUT-TONY!


CRISPY MUSHROOM AND EGG SANDWICH
Ingredients
Bread — 1 piece
Changelings — 100 g
Cockatrice egg — Half of 1
Mandrake leaves — As you like
Butter, salt, and pepper — To taste
NO MUSHROOMS ON IZUTSUMI'S
ENERGY
PROTEIN
FAT
CARBS
CALCIUM
IRON
VITAMIN A
VITAMIN B2
VITAMIN C


URP!
PECHA (SMACK) PECHA
PECHA
BAKU BAKU
BAKU (CHOMP)
MUSHA (MUNCH)
MUSHA


JIRI JIRI (CREEP)
MUSHA
MUSHA
MUSHA
BAKU


BUT WE JUST HAD BREAKFAST...
WE'RE BEING GLUT-TONS.


BLEH.
TRY IT.
SYRUP?
MM! YOU'RE RIGHT.
THAT'S SURPRISINGLY GOOD!
ALMOST LIKE BACON.
THE CRISPY MUSHROOMS ARE GOOD.
IT'S TASTY IF YOU PUT A LITTLE SYRUP ON THEM TOO.
SWEETS ARE FOR SNACKTIME.
I BET YOUR TASTE BUDS ARE SCREWY.
YOU'D GO THAT FAR?
CHILCHUCK SCORNED THOSE WHO ADDED SWEETS TO THEIR MEALS TOO.
COME ON, CHILCHUCK, YOU TOO!
KNOCK IT OFF! THAT'S GROSS.
I GUESS WE'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK.
LOOK.
THE BICORN IS WATCHING US.
PIKU TWITCH PIK


NEXT IS... ENVY.
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU'RE JEALOUS OF?
I ENVY YOU AS WELL, YOU KNOW.
HAVING YOUR SENSE OF TASTE AND SMELL WOULD HAVE WIDENED MY HORIZONS.
IF I HAD TO SAY, MAYBE SENSHI.
IF MY LOOKS WERE THAT MAGNIFICENT, PEOPLE WOULDN'T UNDER-ESTIMATE ME SO MUCH.
I WISH I'D BEEN BORN AS A FOUR-LEGGED MONSTER !!
JIRI JIRI
CREEPY
HFF!
HFF!
BICORN, I LOATHE YOU!!
CREEPY.
ENVY!
SO HE'S HONEST WITH SENSHI ABOUT THAT STUFF...
GOOD! THAT'S THE SPIRIT.

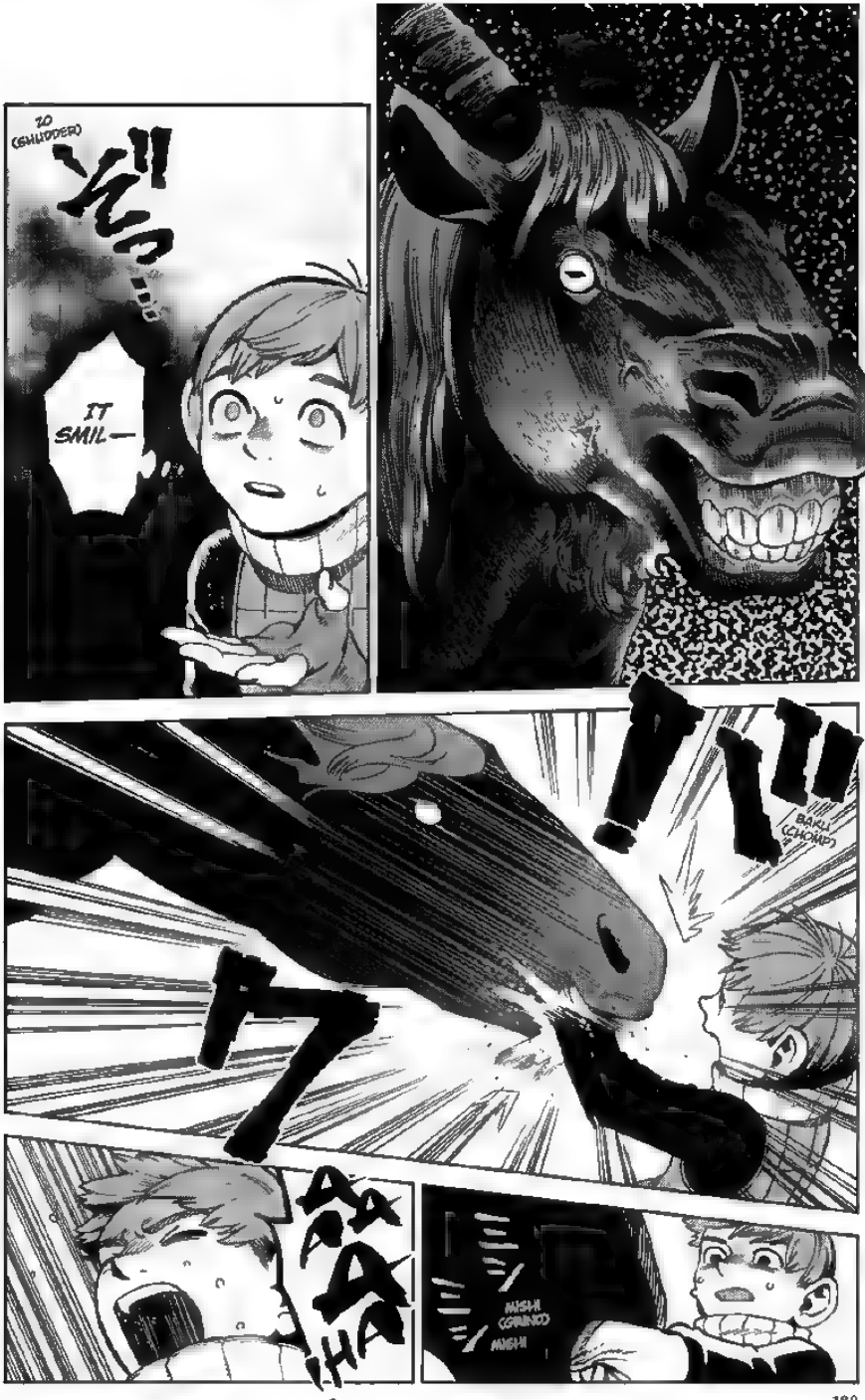

I'M TIRED OF THIS.
I'LL BE NAPPING OVER THERE. GOOD LUCK WITH ALL THIS.
WHAT'S WRONG, IZUTSUMI?
LET'S KEEP THIS UP!
GOOD, VERY GOOD! YOU'RE REALLY INTO THIS, IZUTSUMI!
ドドド


DO YOU THINK IT'S OKAY TO SAY WHATEVER YOU WANT TO ME?
ARGH! YOU'RE PICKING ON ME AGAIN!
HUH?
CHILBLIVIOUS
WHA...?
YOU'RE SENSI-TIVE TO PREJ-UDICE THAT'S AIMED AT YOU...
...BUT YOU'RE OBLIVIOUS TO YOUR OWN!
THE BICORN STOPPED.
I BET WE'RE ALMOST THERE!
AND YOU BROUGHT OUT MARCILLE'S WRATH TOO!
I SEE! GOOD SHOW OF PRIDE, CHIL-CHUCK.


NO, I WANT ALL OF YOU!!
I'VE GOT GREED COVERED!!
BICORN!! I WANT YOUR FLESH AND YOUR HORNS—
AAAAA!
RRRRA
SURUU (SWIP)


IT'S NO GOOD.
I WAS ALMOST THERE, BUT...!
パカッ
PAKA (CLACK)
パカッ
パカッ
パカッ
CHILCHUCK, CAN YOU HANDLE THAT ONE FOR US?
WHY!?
THE ONLY ONE LEFT...
...IS INFIDEL-ITY.
I...I, UH...
.....
YOUR WIFE LEFT BECAUSE YOU CHEATED, RIGHT?
NONE OF US HAVE EXPERIENCE WITH INFIDELITY.
AGH!
WHAT'S "INFIDELITY"?


ONCE IT LOWERS ITS HEAD QUIETLY, TIE THE ROPE AROUND IT.
YES!
I'LL DO IT. HAPPY NOW?
...FINE!
JIRI (CREEP)
じり
KA (CLOP)
カッ
C'MERE.
カッ
カッ
BRR HRR HRR
ピク
ピク
HERE.
C'MERE.
SFX: PIKU (TWITCH) PIKU
OH-HO ...!?


ZO (SHUDDER)
IT SMIL—
BAKU! (CHOMP)
MISHI (GRIND) MISHI
AHA!


BUN
BUN (SHAKE)
CHIL!!
ON THUK
PA (PLUCK)
DOSA (WHUMP)
CHIL-CHUCK !!
PA (DROP)
HRNH!
KAAH!


GATSUN (WHUMP)
ドン
DOSUN (WHUMP)
LAIOS, CATCH!
HYLIA
IZU-TSUMI! TIE THE ROPE AROUND ME.
HYLIA (WHIRR)
SA (PLING?)


GURU (COIL)
SA (WHISH)
GURUN (WRAP)
PASHI (SNATCH)
HRGH!
GUU (TUG)
IT CAUGHT!
HAUL ON IT!!
GURA (LURCH)
GARI (STRAIN)
GIRI


WAAH!
IZU-TSUMI, THE ROPE!?
IT'S TIED!
ON MY MARK, EVERYBODY, PULL TOGETHER!
GIRI (STRAIN)
GIRI
GIRI
GIGHI (CREAK)
GUGUN (TUG)
AND HEAVE!!
GAKU (SLUMP)


WHFF...
HFF...
HFF!
HFF!
DON (WHILD)
FOR-
GIVE
ME!!


DO I LOOK OKAY?
I'LL HEAL YOU RIGHT AWAY!!
CHIL-CHUCK, ARE YOU OKAY!?
GOOD ONES?
GRK!
BUT YOU CHEATED. SO I ASSUMED...
ONE THEORY HAS IT THAT BICORNS ONLY EAT GOOD HUSBANDS.
I FORGOT BICORNS SOMETIMES EAT HUMANS.
YOU FORGOT THAT?
I'M REALLY SORRY.
OKAY, OKAY!!
I'LL TALK— JUST TAKE IT SLOWER!
OW! OW! OW!!
WHY DID YOU JUST FLINCH!?
BIKI (CRINKLE)
BONES SNAPPING BACK IN PLACE
BIKI BIKI


WHY WOULD YOU LIE ABOUT THAT?
...YOU DIDN'T CHEAT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
VANITY, MAYBE...
THE THING IS, I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHY SHE LEFT.
HUH!?
B-BUT THAT'S ...!
...AND WHEN I CAME BACK FROM MY NEXT JOB, SHE WAS GONE.
ON THE WAY HOME, SHE SUDDENLY GOT MOODY...
A LONG TIME AGO...SOME MEMBERS OF MY PARTY WANTED TO MEET MY WIFE.
WE ALL WENT OUT TO EAT TOGETHER.
...SO THAT WAS IT.
BUT I WAS MAD, LIKE YOU'D FIGURE.
NO WORRIES THERE.
I GOT A LETTER FROM THE ONE WHO TOOK HER IN.
IS SHE OKAY?
SHE DIDN'T EVEN TELL YOU WHY!? THAT'S SO MEAN!
YOUR CURIOSITY'S SHOWING.


IF I WERE YOUR WIFE...
HUH?
THIS IS JUST A GUESS, BUT...
HMM...
I'D REALLY WANT YOU TO TAKE A MORE STABLE JOB, AND YET...
...I'D BE PRETTY HAPPY WITH THE LIFE WE HAD.
THIS IS JUST A GUESS, RIGHT?
YOU BEING YOU...
...YOU WOULDN'T TELL ME ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR WORK...
...AND SOMETIMES YOU'D COME HOME BADLY HURT.
I'D NEVER KNOW WHEN MY HUSBAND WAS COMING HOME, AND I'D WORRY ABOUT HIM...
...WHILE I SPENT MY DAYS DOING CHORES AND CARING FOR OUR CHILD.
THEN I MET YOUR WORK FRIENDS.
I FOUND A SITTER AND DRESSED IN MY VERY BEST.
I WAS SO EXCITED.
...WHILE YOU COMPLAINED ABOUT HOW LONG I WAS TAKING.
THEN ONE DAY, FOR THE FIRST TIME, YOU TELL ME YOU WANT TO INTRODUCE ME TO YOUR FRIENDS FROM WORK.


...I ALSO FOUND OUT HOW MY HUSBAND TALKED ABOUT ME TO HIS FRIENDS...
HOW IS SHE A KLUTZ, HUH?
...AND I FELT LIKE I WAS ON TOP OF THE WORLD, BUT...
I GOT LOTS OF COMPLI-MENTS...
SO CUTE!
CUTE!
I HADN'T EATEN OUT IN AGES, AND THE FOOD WAS DELICIOUS.
SINCE YOU INTRODUCED US, I'M SURE THEY'RE GOOD PEOPLE.
...I FELT LIKE I WAS TOO BORING FOR YOU.
...OR SMILING COMPANION-ABLY WITH A PRETTY LADY FROM YOUR PARTY...
...WHEN I SAW YOU CHATTING WITH YOUR FRIENDS AFTER A FEW DRINKS...
CHILCHUCK IS BASHFUL, SO NO MATTER HOW MUCH HE LOVED ME, HE'D NEVER TELL ME SO.
I UNDER-STOOD THAT, BUT... ON THAT DAY...
EVEN IF I ASKED, I KNEW YOU'D NEVER TELL ME, SO...
...FINALLY, I...
...TESTED YOU.
FOR THE FIRST TIME, I DOUBTED YOUR LOVE.


—ANYWAY, THAT'S HOW I THINK IT WENT.
WELL!?
WOW.
IT'S LIKE YOU WATCHED IT ALL HAPPEN!
UURK!
GRK!
AND YET, THIS HAPPENED.
SO THEN YOU DECIDED NEVER TO TALK ABOUT YOUR PERSONAL LIFE.
GRK!
YOU TOLD YOUR FRIENDS YOU WERE MARRIED FROM THE START...
...JUST TO HEAD OFF ANY TROUBLE WITH THEM, RIGHT?
...
IT TURNS UP IN EVERY STORY AND SCRAP OF GOSSIP!
I DON'T!
BUT THIS HAPPENS ALL THE TIME!
Y...
YOU...
H-HOW DID... YOU KNOW...?


GOGO (RUSTLE)
OH.
YOU DROPPED YOUR SANDWICH?
TAKE THIS.
YOU LOST BLOOD, SO YOU NEED CALORIES.
MOGU CHNCHO
MOGU MOGU
AH!
THIS ONE HAS SYRUP IN IT, HUH?
HNFF!
IT'S ACTUALLY NOTHING TO SNEEZE AT.
HOW IS IT?


THAT'S NOT IT.
ALTHOUGH CHILCHUCK IS DEFINITELY [illegible]
HMM...
DOES "GOOD" MEAN NOT BEING UNFAITHFUL?
THE BICORN DECIDED CHILCHUCK WAS "A GOOD HUSBAND" AND ATTACKED HIM.
THE DALTIAN PLAN
24 VOLUMES TOTAL
USE IT TO STUDY THE SUBTLETIES OF THE HEART, ALL RIGHT?
I'LL LOAN YOU TWO A NOVEL SERIES I SWEAR BY.
IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN JUST DEFINE.
TELL ME THE DEFINITION OF "GOOD."
ON WHAT GROUNDS!?
HAAH...
AFTER ALL, YOU'VE GOT THE BICORN'S ENDORSEMENT!
I'M SURE YOUR WIFE WILL BE THRILLED.
THEN, ONCE WE'RE BACK UP TOP, TAKE HER SOME FLOWERS.


...YOU'RE RIGHT.
ALTHOUGH I DOUBT REALITY WILL PLAY OUT AS WELL AS THE STORIES DO.
HA HA HA!
HEH!
.....
YOUR LITTLE GIRL'S AT HER CUTEST NOW, RIGHT?
I BET SHE MISSES HER DADDY.
WHAT'S THAT?
MY "LITTLE GIRL" IS GROWN AND OUT ON HER OWN.
POP (TOOT)
YOUR DEDUCTIONS ARE IMPRESSIVE.
YOU GOT ONE THING DEAD WRONG, THOUGH.


HOW OLD IS "GROWN"?
FOURTEEN FOR US.
HUH. IT'S SIXTEEN WHERE I'M FROM.
TALK ABOUT SHORT CYCLES...
OUT ON HER OWN!?
RIGHT. ALL THREE OF THEM.
THREE!?
CHIL-CHUCK...
WHAT?
THAT'S WHO SENT WORD MY WIFE WAS SAFE.
THIS SCARF TOO.
SHE'S LIVING AT OUR SECOND DAUGHTER'S PLACE NOW.
I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU COUGH UP ALL OF IT!
YOU'RE STILL HIDING THINGS, AREN'T YOU!!?
NO, THAT WAS IT!

*To be continued...*


...AND YOU CAN TELL WHAT A DUNGEON'S LIKE BY LOOKING AT ITS MUSHROOMS. HOWEVER...
THEY'RE EASILY AFFECTED BY THEIR ENVIRON-MENT...
AS A RULE...
...THERE ARE WALKING MUSHROOMS AND SLIMES IN EVERY DUNGEON.
MISCELLANEOUS MONSTER TALES
8
WALKING MUSHROOMS
SFX: ZUMOMOMOMOMOMO (LOOM)
BUSHU (SHOO)
RIGHT, WITH THOSE SPORES.
NO, NO, NOT THAT.
THEY DRAW HUMANS TO THEM.
THEY'RE ONLY AS TOUGH AS MUSHROOMS WALKING, BUT THERE'S ONE NASTY PROBLEM.
もも
すも
もも
...BY THE TIME WE GET DISPATCHED, THEY'RE USUALLY UP TO THAT SIZE.
SOME SAY THEIR NUMBERS RIVAL THE DRAGON FANCIERS.
LATELY, IT SEEMS NO MATTER WHERE WE GO, SOME WALKING MUSHROOM ASSOCIATION HAS GOTTEN THERE FIRST.
THEY'RE SERIOUSLY IN THE WAY
WALKING MUSH-ROOMS ARE THAT BIG A DEAL?
OOH, THAT'S A BIG ONE.
DON'T PUSH. QUIT SHOVING.
WALKING MUSHROOM LOVERS COME TO LOOK AT THEM!


GAH—
WELL, GOOD FOR THEM. GEEZ.
.. THEY'RE TEMPERA-MENTAL AND WILL ONLY WARM UP TO CHASTE DAMSELS—
HOWEVER, IN CONTRAST TO THEIR BEAUTY...
UNICORNS' HORNS HAVE THE POWER TO PURIFY ANY WATER.
UNICORN
BICORN
THEY'RE WHY WE'RE ALWAYS ABLE TO DRINK CLEAN WATER.
SEE? THE MATERIAL ON THE LION'S FANGS IS DIFFERENT.
I HEAR THEY'RE OFTEN USED IN THE DETAIL WORK ON SPRING OUTLETS IN DUNGEONS.
WITH THAT HORN, YOU CAN MAKE ANY WATER DRINKABLE.
AAAH! AWW!
OOPS. I NEUTRALIZED THE UNICORN HORN WITH THE BICORN HORN.
DORO (GLUP) DORO DORO
ZAAA (GUSH)
OW!
HOTELAN (CUP?)
IDIOT!
YOU HAD TO SAY IT, HUH!?
SO WE'VE BEEN DRINKING THIS ALL THIS TIME..
BLECH.
IT STINKS
I'M GLAD WE ALREADY REFILLED OUR FLASKS.


TALL-MEN HAVE NOTH.NG THAT SETS THEM APART. THEY'RE BORING.
I HATE IT!!
YOUR CURRENT FORM SUITS YOU BEST.
I WISH I COULD HAVE BEEN A TROLL...
TROLL
SOME ARE HUGE AND MON-STROUSLY STRONG.
OTHERS ARE GREEDY AND LAY WASTE TO THINGS.
OTHERS ARE A LITTLE DIM...
WELL, YOU'RE NOT WRONG.
ON THE OTHER HAND, TROLLS APPEAR IN ALL SORTS OF STORIES FROM ALL TIMES AND PLACES...
...BUT THEY ALL LOOK SUBTLY DIFFERENT. THEY'RE RICHLY VARIED.
DWAH-HA-HA! OKAY, OKAY.
I'LL TELL YOU.
WELL, IT WAS JUST LIKE THE RUMORS SAY...
CHIL-CHUCK!
REALLY!? WHAT SORT OF CREATURE WAS IT!?
HUH? CHILCHUCK, YOU'VE SEEN A TROLL?
...YEAH.


THEY'RE STORIES WE MADE UP TO KEEP KIDS OUT OF DANGER...
...BACK WHEN THE RACES DIDN'T INTERACT MUCH.
THEY WERE TOLD ALL OVER, THEN SPREAD TO OTHER PLACES.
"TROLL" WAS ORIGINALLY ONE OF OUR WORDS—AND IT REFERS TO YOU TALL-MEN!


YOUR SNACKS ARE GONE?
A TROLL PROBABLY ATE THEM.
DO WHAT YOUR PARENTS SAY, OR A TROLL WILL KIDNAP YOU.
EEEK!
HURRY UP AND SLEEP, OR THE TROLL WILL COME!
I USED THEM WHEN MY DAUGHTERS WERE LITTLE TOO.


TOLL...
TROLL!?
TALL...
.....
TALL-MAN...


NOT TO US, ANYWAY—WE'RE WAY MORE MEDIOCRE THAN YOU.
RELAX.
YOU PEOPLE AREN'T HALF AS B...AND AS YOU THINK YOU ARE.

# Translation Notes

**Page 32**
In Japan, having a "cat's tongue" means you're extra-sensitive to the temperature of your food and have a hard time eating or drinking hot things. The phrase isn't usually applied to actual cats.

**Page 41**
The mushkhushshu is a creature from Mesopotamian mythology said to have scales, hind legs like an eagle's, the forelimbs of a lion, a long neck and tail, horns, a snake-like tongue, and a crest. Images of this beast adorn the reconstructed Ishtar Gate, a famous entryway in the ancient city of Babylon.

**Page 59**
The gargoyle's transformation is a send-up of the famous *Manneken Pis* statue in Brussels, Belgium. The current statue was put in place in 1618 or 1619 (original installation is unknown) and actually was intended to produce potable water for public consumption.

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# 8

# DELICIOUS IN DUNGEON

## RYOKO KUI

**Translation: Taylor Engel** **Lettering: Abigail Blackman**

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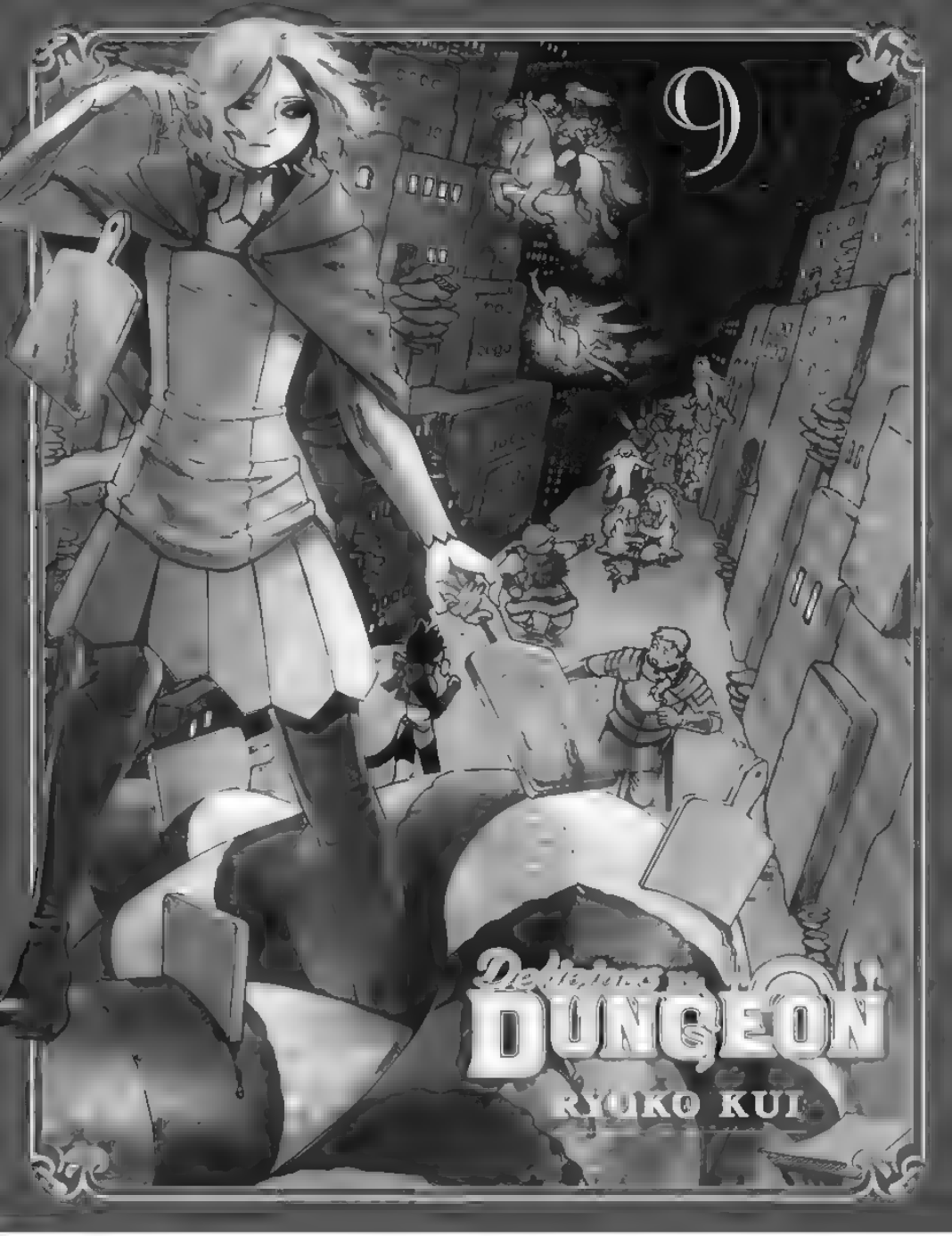
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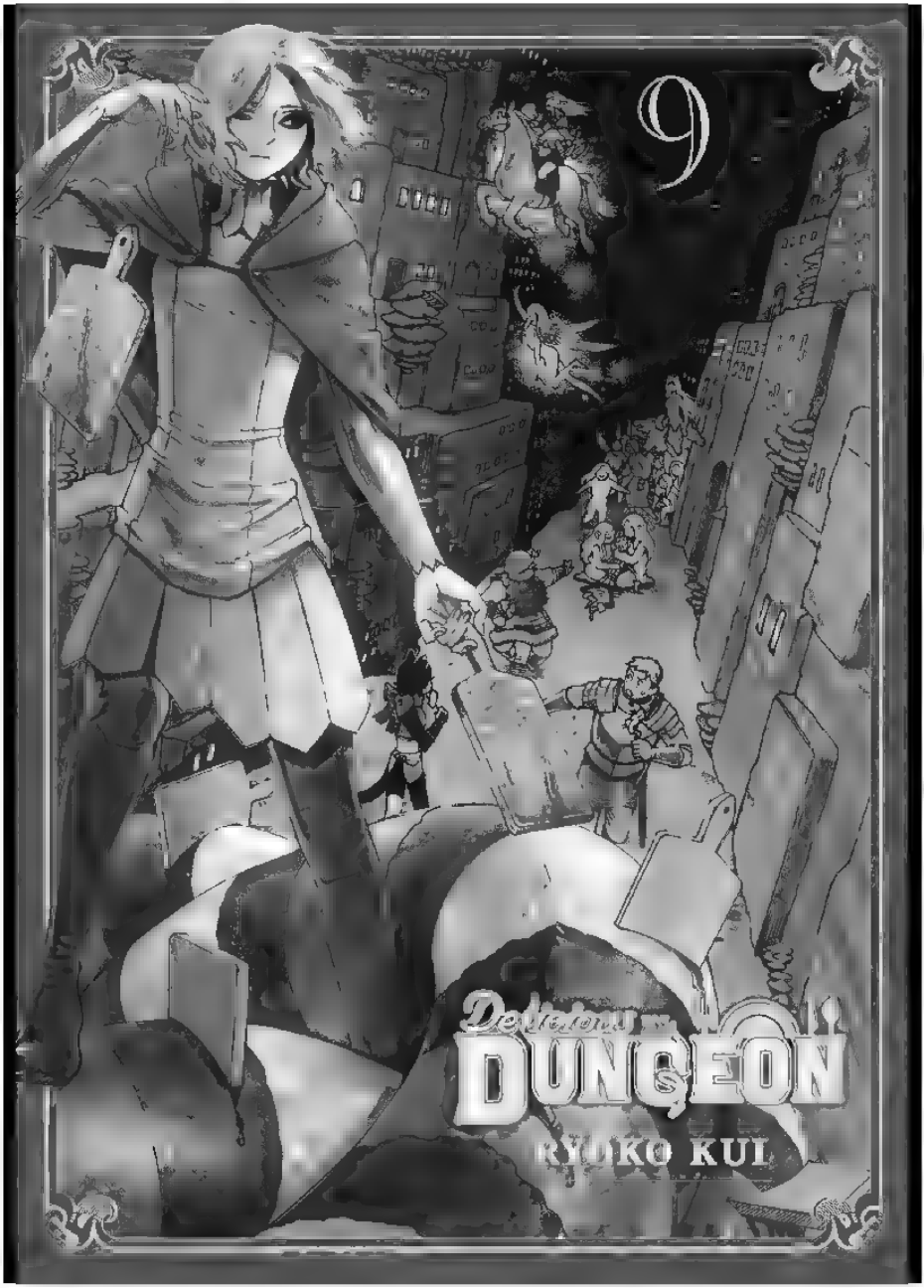
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9
DUNGEON
RYOKO KUI


9
Delicious in
DUNGEON
RYOKO KUI

# Delicious in Dungeon



Ryoko Kui

9

# Delicious in Dungeon

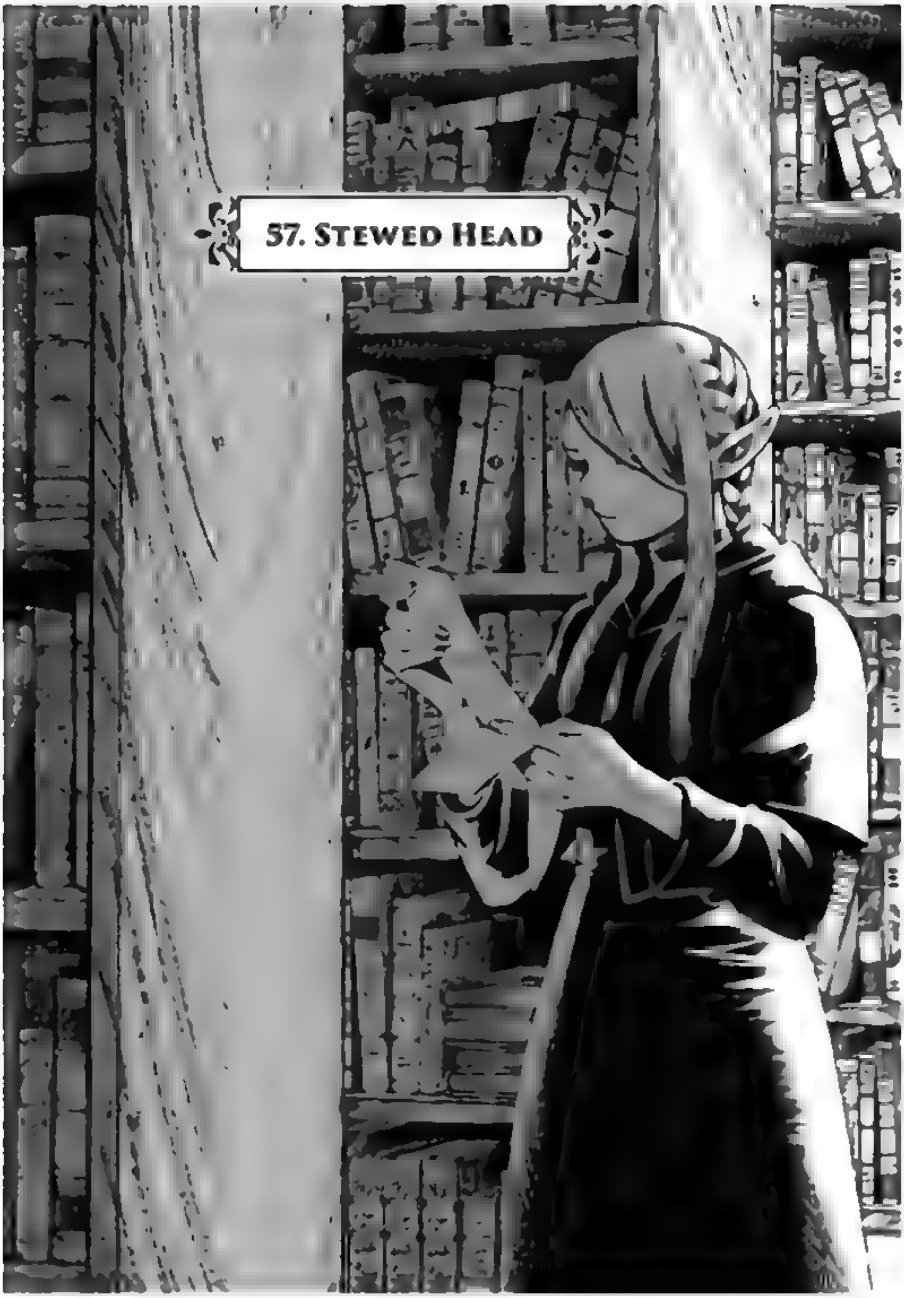
9

*Contents*

*Chapter 57* **STEWED HEAD** — 005
*Chapter 58* **SUCCUBUS -1-** — 041
*Chapter 59* **SUCCUBUS -2-** — 065
*Chapter 60* **THE WINGED LION** — 097
*Chapter 61* **ROASTED WALKING MUSHROOM** 129
*Chapter 62* **SIX DAYS** — 161
*Bonus* **MISCELLANEOUS MONSTER TALES -9-** — 204




CHAPTER 57
LAIOS!!
LAIOS!
STAY WITH ME!!
BACK WHEN I FIRST MET YOU, YOU WERE LIKE THIS ALL THE TIME.
YOU'RE A LOT MORE ANIMATED NOW.
WHOA, MARCILLE.
YOU LOOK PRETTY GRIM.
WHAT HAPPENED...
WHAT'S THAT FACE ABOUT?
WHY...?
I CAN'T RELAX WHEN YOU LOOK LIKE THAT.


57. Stewed Head


...LAIOS.
BIG BROTHER!
YOU CAN'T! I MEAN IT!
SHAVE YOUR WHIS-KERS!
PUT ON THE CLEANEST CLOTHES YOU HAVE!
WHAT, FALIN?
WHAT'S WRONG?
YOU'RE NOT GOING LIKE THAT, ARE YOU?
HMM...
THESE ARE THEM.
OH, RIGHT.
I WAS SO BUSY CLEANING THE ROOM THAT I FORGOT.


SO—
I KNOW.
"BE RESPECTFUL," RIGHT?
HAH...
...LISTEN.
THE PERSON WE'RE GOING TO MEET IS MY FRIEND AND A TEACHER I'M INDEBTED TO...
SHE'S A KIND, FUN PERSON, BUT SHE CAN BE STRICT.
...AND SHE THINKS YOU TOOK ME AWAY BY FORCE.
AFTER ALL, SHE STILL TREATS ME LIKE I'M TEN YEARS OLD...
HA HA HA!
WHAT THE HECK?
...I DIDN'T MENTION IT, BUT...
SHE'S ANGRY RIGHT NOW.
SHE'S RESEARCHING OLD MAGIC.
THERE'S LOTS OF IT IN DUNGEONS, SO SHE WANTS TO STUDY IT.
STILL...
WHY DOES SOMEONE SO BRILLIANT WANT TO BE AN ADVENTURER?


NO EXPERIENCE...?
HUH? ELF??
AN ELF!?
SKIP IT
ANOTHER WOMAN? MAGICIAN?
I TALKED IT OVER WITH EVERYBODY ELSE, AND—
TO BE HONEST, THEY WEREN'T THRILLED WITH THE IDEA.
AN ELF, HUN...
MOST RESEARCHERS JUST HIRE ADVENTURERS.
IT ALMOST NEVER GOES THE OTHER WAY.
RIGHT, BUT...
I MEAN, THEY DON'T TEACH ATTACK SPELLS IN SCHOOL, RIGHT?
...I DOUBT WE'LL NEED TO [redacted] ABOUT THAT.
?
BASHA (SPLASH)
HER LACK OF EXPERIENCE CONCERNS ME TOO.
THE MAGIC YOU NEED IN THE DUNGEON IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT YOU'D USE OUT IN SOCIETY.
MARCILLE.
HER NAME IS MARCILLE.
YOUR FRIEND. WHAT WAS HER—
UH...




I'VE NEVER TALKED TO AN ELF BEFORE.
ELF. ELVES. ARS.
ALL I KNOW ABOUT THEM IS THAT THEY LIVE A REALLY LONG TIME.


I'LL MEET HER AT THE PORT ON MY OWN, AND THEN I'LL INTRODUCE YOU.
WAIT FOR US AT THE TAVERN.
HEH HEH!
SHE'S ALL FIRED UP ABOUT THIS.


EXCUSE ME. YOU DROPPED THIS.
OH...


HIRARI (FLUTTER)
ひらり


THANKS.
THIS IS THE LAUGHING WOLF, CORRECT?
I'M LOOKING FOR SOMEONE.
LIGHT BROWN HAIR, AMBER EYES.
HER NAME IS FALIN.
OH, FALIN'S NOT HERE, BUT...
...HER BROTHER'S OVER THERE.
IT'S GOOD TO MEET YOU. I'M LAIOS.




YOU!
Y-
YOU TOOK FALIN—
MARCILLE, NO! IT'S NOT HIS FAULT.
AAAAH!
GAH (CRASH)
WAIT, WAIT!
A LOVERS' SPAT. IT'S A FIGHT.
FALIN.
I GOT THE MEETING SPOT WRONG.
WHAT WERE YOU DOING?


SFX: GAKU (SHAKE) GAKU GAKU
IT'S BEEN THREE YEARS!!
WHAT ON EARTH WERE YOU THINKING—
WHAT IS IT, TWO YEARS?
OH! YOU FINISHED THAT "AMBROSIA" STAFF OF YOURS.
FALIN ...!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, HUH, MARCILLE.
.....
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW WORRIED I WAS?
MUNI
MUNI
MUNI
MUNI (CRUNCH)
I FHED I WAZH SOWWY.
SORRY, MARCILLE.
...RIGHT.
I'VE MADE UP MY MIND.
GUSA (SHUNK)
GUSA
GUSA
YOU CAN'T DO THIS SORT OF THING FOREVER, YOU KNOW.
WHAT ABOUT YOUR FUTURE!?
PUNI
PUNI
PUNI (POKE)


I DID, BUT NOW THAT I'VE SEEN THE RAGGED STATE OF YOU, I CAN'T JUST LEAVE YOU LIKE THIS.
BUT DIDN'T YOU WANT TO EXPLORE THE DUNGEON?
HUH!?
YOU'RE TAKING ME BACK TO SCHOOL!?
I'LL APOLOGIZE TO THE SCHOOL WITH YOU.
LET'S LEAVE ON THE NEXT SHIP.
YOU CAN CATCH ALL THE BUGS YOU LIKE, ALL RIGHT?
BEFORE YOU DO THAT...
...WHY NOT MAKE A TRIP INTO THE DUNGEON?
I SEE.
THEN...
THEIR BEST CLOTHES
NO...
BROTH-ER...
BESIDES, IF YOU SEE WHAT WE USUALLY DO IN THERE...
...IT MAY EASE YOUR MIND A LITTLE.
...WHY?
WELL... YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE. YOU COULD AT LEAST TAKE A LOOK AT IT.

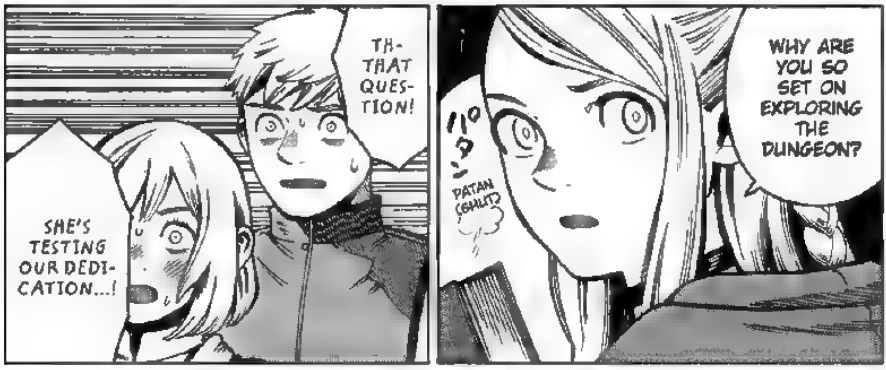

GOOOOO CHWOOOO
THE FIRST FLOOR DOWN ISN'T VERY DANGEROUS. WE'LL SHOW YOU AROUND.
DUNGEONS LIVE AND DIE!?
FALIN, C'MERE A MINUTE.
SO THIS IS YOUR FIRST DUNGEON?
むっ
I'VE BEEN IN SEVERAL.
IT IS MY FIRST LIVING, MAN-MADE DUNGEON, THOUGH.
YOU'VE GROWN SO MUCH...
BROTHER, YOU'RE SO SMART!
HAPPY END
HEH HEH HEH
I KNOW.
SHE'S NEW AT EXPLORING. A CRISIS.
YOU SAVE HER.
...BASICALLY, WE NEED TO GET HER TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR COMPETENCE, RIGHT?


MAR-CIIILLE, LOOK OULUIT!
LET US HANDLE THIIIS—
AHA!
A WALKING MUSHROOM. PERFECT TIMING.
BOOO (GLOW)
ドゴォ
(KABOOOM)
(KA GLASHO)


SHUUU
SHUUUUU
FIZZLED
NO WONDER THEY USE IT IN WARFARE.
WOW. THAT'S AMAZING.
SO THAT'S HOW MUCH POWER IT HAS IN A DUNGEON.
HUH?
HOW OLD IS SHE?
EVEN IF SHE HAS NO EXPE-RIENCE...
...SHE HAS KNOWLEDGE SHE'S SPENT DECADES ACQUIRING.
I THOUGHT SHE'D NEVER EXPLORED A DUNGEON...
SHE'S BEEN STUDYING.
SHE LEARNED WHAT KINDS OF SPELLS IT TAKES.




YOU TWO...
WHEEZE! WHEEZE!
NOT GOOD. THIS WASN'T WHAT I...


TH-THAT QUES-TION!
SHE'S TESTING OUR DEDI-CATION...!
PATAN (GHLIT)
WHY ARE YOU SO SET ON EXPLORING THE DUNGEON?


AND WHERE WOULD YOU USE THESE SKILLS ON THE SURFACE?
PART OF THE REASON THEY DON'T TEACH VIOLENT SPELLS AT SCHOOL...
...IS TO PROTECT THEIR STUDENTS FROM PERSECUTION, YOU KNOW.
IT'S ACTUAL EXPERIENCE, SO IT'S MORE EDUCATIONAL THAN READING BOOKS!
I'LL SET YOU UP WITH A CUTE GIRL FOR CHEAP.
A MAGICIAN?
...FOR MONEY?
COULD YOU EXCHANGE THIS...
CAN YOU PAY ME EARLY?
MONEY'S TIGHT...
I THINK YOU COULD BUILD A MORE DECENT NETWORK OUTSIDE THE DUNGEON.
THE FULL AMOUNT!!!
PAY UP FRONT!!!
...IF I HAD A BIT MORE MONEY...
I'D GET BETTER...
YOU GET TO KNOW LOTS OF PEOPLE WHILE YOU'RE EXPLORING!
THEY'RE ALL GOOD PEOPLE.
IN OTHER WORDS, THE SHALLOW LEVELS ARE ALREADY STRIPPED.
YOU'RE HAVING TO PUT IN MORE AND MORE WORK FOR LESS REWARD, AREN'T YOU?
YOU NEVER LACK FOR MONEY IN THIS JOB!
THE WALLS IN THE DEEP LEVELS ARE COVERED IN GOLD.


SHE'LL SEE THROUGH OUR BLUFFING FAST, THOUGH.
SHE'LL THINK IT'S A DUMB GOAL.
NO. NO WAY.
SHOULDN'T WE JUST TELL HER THE TRUTH...?
JYURU (GOOD)
FFFF
FFFF
(SLAT)


JU (SIZZ)
FIRE! FIRE!
BUKU (BRBL)
BUKU
BUKU
MMRGH!?
WAH!
SA (SKITTER)
SA
SA
RYA (TWIP)
BOCHON (SPLOING)
OH.
THIS AREA IS A SLIME BREEDING GROUND...
I...I GOT CARELESS.
HFF!
HFF!


WE NEED TO RESURRECT HER.
YEAH...
DID SHE HIT HER HEAD WHEN THE SLIME STARTLED HER?
SHE'S DEAD.
NOW SHE'LL TAKE FALIN BACK FOR SURE.
IT'S OVER.
A-ARE YOU OKAY?
KFF!
GHK!
KOFF!
BHK!
BLR
GH!


WAS... WAS I...
...DEAD... JUST NOW?
O-ONLY A LITTLE BIT.
YOUR SOUL WAS STILL HERE, SO YOU WERE BASICALLY JUST UNCONSCIOUS
BA (WHIP)
BOGO (MUTTER)
...TIC...
HUH?


FAN...
...TASTIC!!
I'D HEARD ABOUT IT...
...BUT UNTIL IT HAPPENED TO ME, I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT.
ANCIENT MAGIC ACTUALLY MAKES THINGS LIKE THAT POSSIBLE!
IF I CAN JUST FIGURE OUT WHERE THIS POWER COMES FROM...
...MY DREAM'S SURE TO COME TRUE.

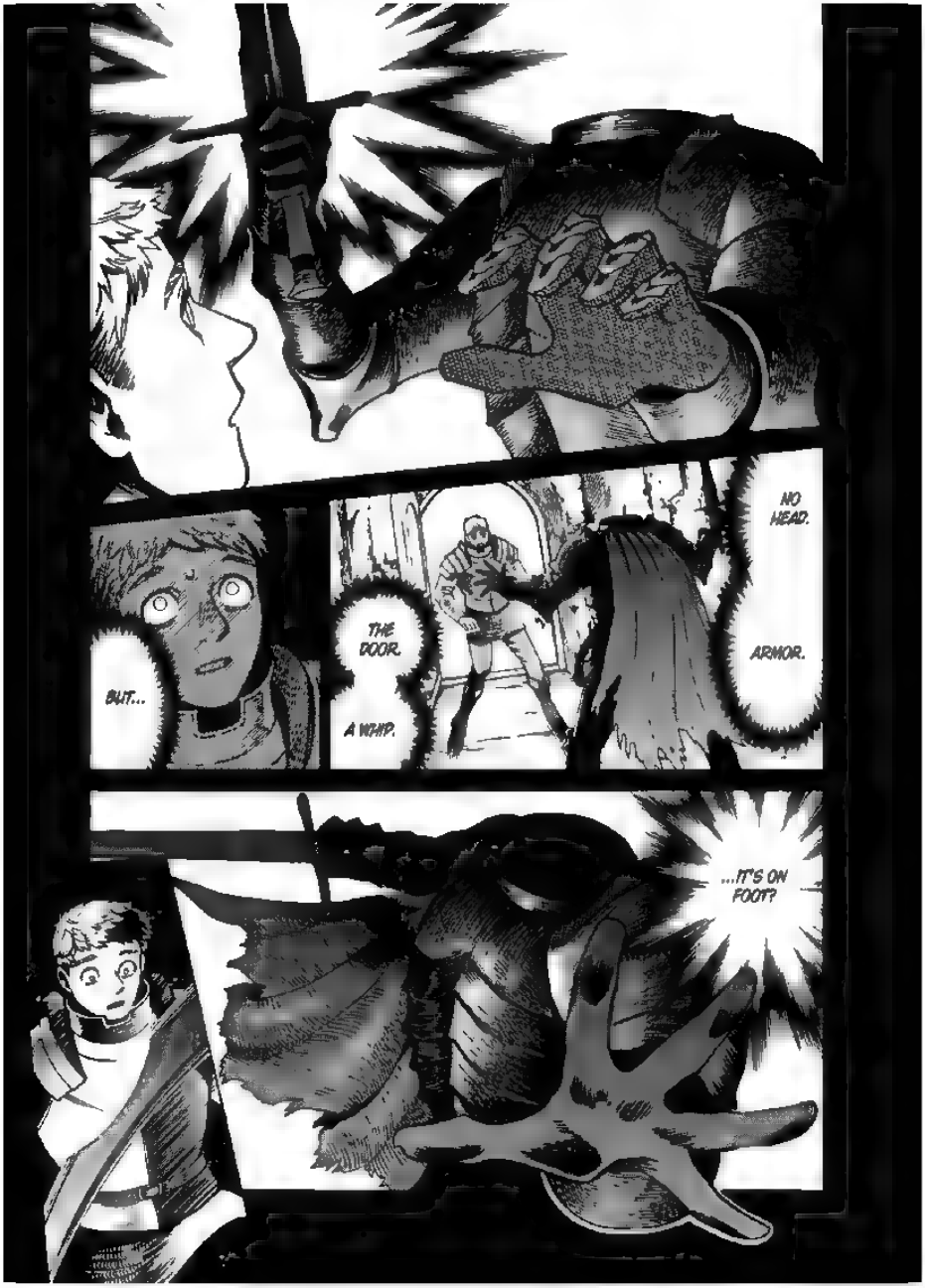

ぽかん
POKAN (STUNNED)
RUINS LEFT BY ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS, MAGIC, AND MONSTERS ...
WE WANT TO SEE AND KNOW...
...THE UNKNOWN.
...WE WANT TO KNOW.
WE WANT TO SEE THINGS WE CAN'T SEE ON THE SURFACE.
LEARNING IS JUST PLAIN FUN.
MARCILLE.
THE REAL REASON WE SPEND TIME IN THE DUNGEON IS...


WE'RE ALSO LOOKING FOR LIKE-MINDED COMPANIONS.
WOULD YOU EXPLORE THE DUNGEON WITH US?
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
THAT'S HOW SHE WAS AT FIRST.


I WONDER WHAT MARCILLE'S DREAM IS.
IT'S ONLY BEEN A YEAR, BUT SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED...
THIS IS WEIRD.
KOFF!
...WAIT.
WHY HAVE I BEEN REMEMBERING ALL THIS STUFF FROM AGES AGO?
SOME-THING'S OFF.
IT'S ALMOST LIKE—
HAH!
MY LIFE IS FLASHING BEFORE MY EYES.
HOW DID I END UP LIKE THIS?
IF I'M GOING TO REMEMBER, I HAVE TO KEEP WATCHING.
THAT'S WHY I'M HAVING VISIONS OF MY PAST!
FOR SOME REASON, I'M AT DEATH'S DOOR!!
THAT MUST BE IT!!


FURTHER...
FURTHER...
THAT'S RIGHT. WE DEFEATED THE BICORN.
AND THEN...
I WANT TO BUTCHER THE BICORN. LET'S GET IT INSIDE.
IT'S DWARF SIZED.
OOH! WHAT A CUTE HOUSE.
ガチャ
GACHA OKACHAK
OH. I FORGOT.
GOOD GRIEF.
WHEW.




NO HEAD.
ARMOR.
THE DOOR.
A WHIP.
BUT...
...IT'S ON FOOT?


HUH!?
EVERY-BODY RUN!!
IT'S A SPIRIT! ATTACKING IT IS POINTLESS!
KA (SNAP)
ナ!!
G-GET AWAY—
RUN FOR ALL YOU'RE WORTH.
DAAA (DASH)
だーっ
DON'T WOR—
I'LL BE FINE, SO...
OKAY!
GISHI (CREAK)
ギシ
HYUUU (WHOOO)
WELL, IT'S GOOD THEY'RE NOT HANGING AROUND, BUT...
THAT WAS FAST.


WANT TO MAKE A DEAL?
GUGU (STRAIN)
I HAVE SOMETHING I THINK YOU MAY LIKE.
IF YOU LET ME LIVE, I'LL GIVE YOU THIS.


MUKURI!
(RISE!)
ムクリ!
ZA
(LEAP!)


GON (CLONK)
GUWA (WHOOSH)
PAKKO (CLOP)
PAKKO
POKO (CKLOP)
PAKO
POKO
GAN (CLANG)
PAKO

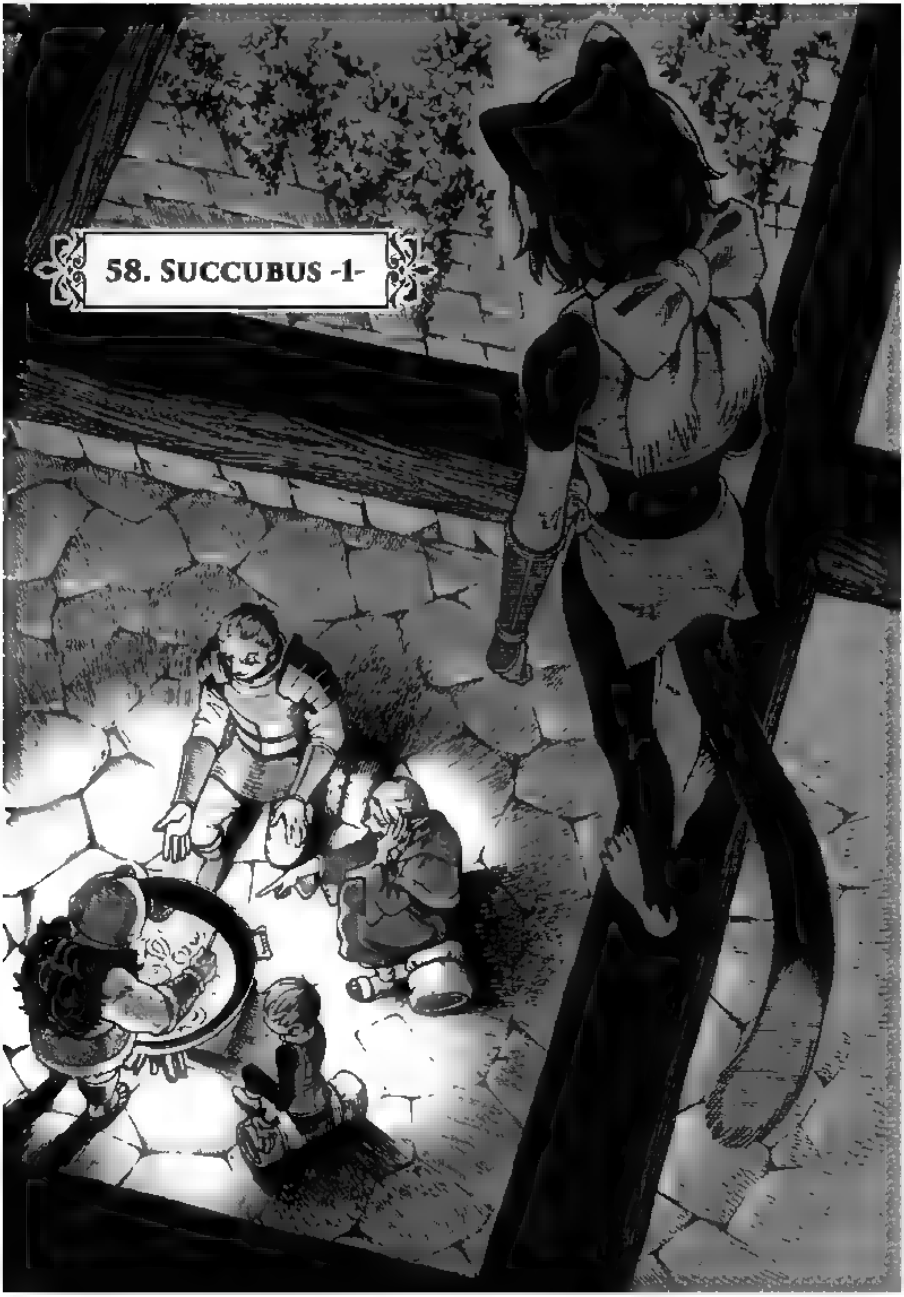

THAT THING JUST RODE OFF ON A HORSE.
WHAT ON EARTH DID YOU DO?
OH! YOU'RE ALIVE.
BAN
GBAND
LAIOS!?
THE FACT THAT IT WAS ON FOOT CONCERNED ME...
...SO I SAID I'D GIVE IT THE HORSE IF IT LET ME GO.
IT WAS A DULLAHAN.
THE DEATH-BRINGING GHOST OF A HEADLESS KNIGHT.
...HEH.
WE ALL WORKED HARD TO CATCH IT, THOUGH. I'M SORRY.
"HEH"?
AND IT ACCEPTED YOUR OFFER?
I THOUGHT IT WOULD PROBABLY LIKE IT.
THEY'RE BOTH DEAD AND HEADLESS.


WHO CARES ABOUT THAT!?
WE CAN CATCH ANOTHER ONE.
NOTHING'S BETTER THAN NOT DYING.
GASHI (RUFFLE)
AH HA HA!
WOW, IT ONLY CUT YOUR BODY.
WHAT, HM?
HOW OLD ARE YOU, MARCILLE?
BY THE WAY, I WANTED TO ASK YOU SOMETHING.
I WASN'T ASKING YOU TWO!
TWENTY THOUSAND.
TCH!
.....
HOW OLD DO I LOOK?
WHA...? WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?


GNOMES
TALL-MEN
3 : 5
SHE SAID MOST OF THE STUDENTS THERE WERE GNOMES OR TALL-MEN.
I FIGURED YOU WERE ABOUT A HUNDRED...
LOOKS TWENTY OR SO?
ELF LIFESPAN X FIVE TIMES AS LONG
...BUT THEN WHY WERE YOU AT THE SAME SCHOOL AS FALIN?
EVERYONE ELSE WAS MUCH YOUNGER.
WEREN'T YOU WAY AHEAD OF THE REST?
I WAS BORN HERE, SO I STAYED CLOSE TO HOME, THAT'S ALL.
I GO TO THE WEST SOMETIMES TOO.
ALL DONE.
EVEN SO, WOULDN'T IT BE NATURAL FOR SOMEONE ON YOUR LEVEL TO STUDY IN THE WEST, WHERE THERE ARE MORE ELVES?
IS THERE A REASON YOU'RE DOING YOUR RESEARCH OVER HERE?
I WAS A RESEARCHER, NOT A PUPIL.
IS IT THAT WEIRD?
I'M ALSO DOING WORK THE SCHOOL FOUND FOR ME.
IT LEFT US SOMETHING GOOD!!
WE'LL HAVE IT FOR DINNER TONIGHT!!
LAIOS, GREAT NEWS!!
...YES.
REALLY...?
BAN
CRASH


THE DULLAHAN LEFT IT BEHIND.
WHOA! THE BICORN'S HEAD!!
(FUTURE) STEWED DULLAHAN'S HORSE'S HEAD
I'LL JUST PARBOIL IT.
WE'LL STEW THE CHEEKS AND TONGUE ...
...AND MAKE A LIGHT SOUP FROM THE EYES AND BRAIN.
PISHI
PISHI (KRIK)
GARA
GARA (CRUMBLE)
THE EYES AND BRAIN!?
WE DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER INGREDIENTS RIGHT NOW.


THAT'S GREAT! YOU'LL EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS, THEN.
OH!
YOU'VE NEVER EATEN HORSE HEAD BEFORE?
OF COURSE NOT!
UGH...
...IN THE END— MOST OF THE TIME— SHE SMILES FOR US.
EVEN WHEN SHE MAKES THAT FACE AT FIRST...
YOU WANT TO EAT BRAINS THAT BADLY!?
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.
CHAPTER 57: THE END


58. SUCCUBUS -1-


SOMEONE CAMPED HERE.
...THEY SURE DID.
DOESN'T THIS LOOK LIKE WHAT WAS LEFT IN FRONT OF THAT ONE DOOR?
THE SAME PEOPLE...?
DID THEY FOLLOW US AFTER WE OPENED THE DOOR?
ANOTHER PARTY...
ORCS OR ADVEN-TURERS? OR MAYBE ANCIENTS?


I'M WORN OUT.
CAN WE REST BEFORE WE THINK ABOUT IT?
I GUESS WE CAN DO THAT.
YAWN...
DO YOU THINK THEY'RE STILL NEARBY? SHOULD WE LOOK?
THERE'S NO WAY THEY'RE DECENT TYPES.
I'LL GO GET SOME WATER!
WHEN IS MY CURSE GOING TO GET BROKEN!?
AREN'T WE LOOKING FOR THE WINGED LION?
HAAAH...
IZUTSUMI...
IT'S ALWAYS ABOUT YOU, ISN'T IT.
EAT, REST, EAT AGAIN...
HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE US TO REACH THE BOTTOM OF THE DUNGEON THIS WAY?


OH? AM I NOT?
TRY THINKING ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE FOR A CHANGE.
DO YOU THINK YOU'RE AN ISLAND OR SOME-THING?
EVEN YOU HAVE PEOPLE WHO RAISED YOU.
DO NOT.
YES, YOU DO!!
I'VE ALWAYS LIVED ON MY OWN.
LOOK.
THEY SAY PEOPLE CAN'T SURVIVE ON THEIR OWN, YOU KNOW.
WE ALL HELP EACH OTHER...
HAAH...
...THEN WHY ARE YOU HANGING AROUND WITH US?
BECAUSE YOU SAID THE WINGED WHATEVER OR THE LUNATIC WHOSIT MIGHT BE ABLE TO BREAK MY CURSE.
I'VE ALWAYS LIVED ON MY OWN...
...AND I ALWAYS WILL!
NO, I DON'T!


...TRUE.
!
HUH?
THAT WOULD BE WAY FASTER.
SO GO FIND THEM ON YOUR OWN.
UH, NOT REALLY.
"WHY"...
IT'S BECAUSE YOU NEED OUR HELP, RIGHT?
HUH?
...SO WHY IS IT THAT YOU'RE GOING AROUND WITH US INSTEAD?
I'M NOT DONE TALKING TO YOU YET.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, IZUTSU-MI?
TO FIND SENSHI.
SUTAN (IMP)
スタ


HMPH.
WHINY LITTLE GUY.
SENSHI? WHERE ARE YOU?
KASA (RUSTLE)
THERE'S A TON OF FISHY-LOOKING THINGS IN THERE.
DID HE FALL IN THE WATER?


SENSHI-!!?
ナデリ…
WHAT?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHAT'S THAT?
HUH? YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT SUCCUBI?
A SUC-CUBUS!?
...THIS MAY BE THE WORK OF A SUCCUBUS.
THAT GAUNT BODY.
THAT LOOK OF ECSTASY.
Succubus Potion
Compounded from refined succubus secretions. Sells for a bundle.
THEY SECRETE A FLUID THAT CAUSES INTENSE PLEASURE, AND SO...
...THEY TEND TO BE OVER-HUNTED FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO SELL IT.
...AND DRAIN THEIR LIFE FORCE.
UHH...
THEY'RE MONSTERS WHO ASSUME AN "ALLURING SHAPE," GET CLOSE TO THEIR PREY...
LIFE FORCE?


EVERYONE BE CAREFUL NOT TO GO OFF ON YOUR OWN.
NO, YOU'D NEVER BEAT THEM ONE-ON-ONE!
HUH. THEY SOUND KINDA WEAK.
I THOUGHT THEY'D DIED OUT IN THIS DUNGEON TOO.
ISN'T THAT JUST A SUPERSTITION?
IF WE PUT SOME BY OUR PILLOWS, WE CAN KEEP THEM FROM ATTACKING US!
SUCCUBI LOVE MILK!
OH, RIGHT! MILK!
LAIOS!
IF YOU NOTICED THAT, THEN STOP HIM!!
WELL, HE WAS JUST SO CONFIDENT ABOUT IT.
AH!
IS IT OKAY FOR HIM TO GO OFF ON HIS OWN?


AAAH!!
BAAAN-
(BAAAN)
BOTH THEIR BODIES ARE EMPTY.
IF I CAST A RECOVERY SPELL ON THEM...
...THE BURDEN WOULD BE TOO GREAT. THEY MIGHT DIE.
YOU IDIOT...!
YOU CAN FIX HIM WITH MAGIC, RIGHT?
ANOTHER DELAY!?
.....
LET'S GO BACK TO THE ROOM WITH WATER AND FIX SOMETHING THAT'LL GO DOWN EASY—
WE NEED TO GIVE THEM NUTRIENTS GRADUALLY AND LET THEM RECOVER.


THOSE SUCCUBUS-THINGIES. THE MONSTERS.
I'LL GO BEAT THEM FOR YOU!
WERE YOU EVEN LISTEN-ING!?
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO BEAT THEM ALONE!
I DON'T WANT ANYBODY, SO I'LL BE FINE.
NO, SERI-OUSLY!
THAT'S WHY YOU CAN'T HUNT SUCCUBI UNLESS THERE ARE TWO OR MORE OF YOU.
THE REST TAKE THEM OUT
THEY LOOK SO MUCH LIKE WHAT YOU DESIRE THAT YOUR LEGS GO WEAK.
AND THAT'S NOT A FIGURE OF SPEECH.
IZU-TSUMI!
I MEAN IT! YOU CAN'T FIGHT THAT!
...YOU'VE BEEN THERE?
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOU'RE LIKE.
THEY READ YOUR SUBCON-SCIOUS, THINGS EVEN YOU CAN'T KNOW.


IZU-TSUMI...
...HAS HAD THIS BODY FOR AS LONG AS SHE COULD REMEMBER...
...BEING SHUFFLED FROM OWNER TO OWNER AND PLACE TO PLACE AS A SIDESHOW FREAK.
TON
CTMP
CAN YOU CALL SHOVING FOOD INTO A CAGE EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE...
...*RAISING* SOMEONE?
IRA
IRA-
GIRU
DON'T TALK LIKE YOU KNOW.
EVEN YOU HAVE PEOPLE WHO RAISED YOU.
MORON!
...SHE CERTAINLY DIDN'T FEEL SHE OWED THEM ANYTHING.
USE YOUR CHOPSTICKS!
IN THE END, SHURO'S FATHER BOUGHT IZUTSUMI ...
...AND MAIZURU DRILLED BASIC MANNERS INTO HER. HOW-EVER...


GUSUN
すぅん
SUN
すぅん
SUN
すぅん
A SWEET SMELL ...
IS THIS FROM THOSE SUCCUBI-THINGS?
THERE'S A MIXTURE OF OLD AND NEW SMELLS.
SUN (SNIFF)
すぅん
I DUNNO WHAT THEY ACTUALLY LOOK LIKE...
...BUT THEY CAN'T HUNT PREY WITHOUT USING THEIR TRICK.
THEY'VE GOTTA BE REALLY WEAK AND UGLY.
"THEY LOOK SO MUCH LIKE WHAT YOU DESIRE THAT YOUR LEGS GO WEAK," HUH?
IN THAT CASE, I JUST HAVE TO SNEAK UP CLOSE TO THEM...
...AND KILL THEM BEFORE THEY TRANS-FORM.
THAT VOICE...
CHIL-CHUCK !?
ビクッ
BIKU (CLINCH)
AAAAH!


TCH!
WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
WEREN'T THEY SUPPOSED TO BE FINE IF THERE WERE TWO OF THEM?
TON (TMP)
TON
THAT'S NOT JUST ONE OF 'EM.
THEY'RE ALSO CAREFUL AND PERSISTENT.
THERE'S NO WAY THEY HAVEN'T NOTICED ME.
FROM OVER THERE...
...AND OVER HERE!?
UU!
THAT SCENT AGAIN.
CHIL-CHUCK.
MAR-CILLE...




GFX: KYORO (GLANCE) KYORO


IT SOUNDS LIKE SHE'S HAD A HARD LIFE.
TOPO (GLUP)
THERE'S NO HELP FOR THAT...
BLAST THAT IZUTSUMI. HOW SELFISH CAN SHE GET?
W-WELL...
THAT'S DEFINITELY A SUCCUBUS.
WHAT!?
READY YOUR WEAPON, MARCILLE.
...NO.
DO YOU SMELL SOMETHING SWEET?
KUN (SNIFF)
IT'S JUST PORRIDGE.
GOT IT?
O-OKAY.
WHEN ONE OF US GETS CHARMED...
...THE ONE WHO'S STILL MOBILE KILLS THE SUCCUBUS.
LISTEN UP.
ONCE YOU SEE THEM, YOU'LL FREEZE UP FAST.


BA-
(FWIP)
AH
HA
HA...
HEE
HEE
HEE...
ZOKU
ZOKU
ZOKUZOKU


SUYA (SHIVER)
AH...
UU!
BON (BOOM!)
CHIL-CHUCK!
ARE YOU OKAY!?
Y...
YEAH...
PHEW..
THANK GOOD-NESS.
NOW WE CAN RELAX A BIT.
HEH HEH...


AH HA HA HA HA!
THERE ARE LOTS OF THEM!?
HEE HEE!
GYA HA HA HA HA!
UFU FU
YOU'RE KIDDING ...
C-CALM DOWN.
ZOWA
ZOWA (SHIVER)
IF WE HANDLE THEM LIKE THAT FIRST ONE, WE'LL BE FINE!
A-ALL RIGHT!
I'LL TAKE OUT THE SUCCUBI THAT TARGET YOU.
YOU TAKE OUT THE ONES THAT TARGET ME.
HYA HA!
BA (LUNGE)


IS YOUR WIFE A BLONDE TOO?
THEY ALL SEEM TO BE BLONDES.
SHUT UP! JUST DROP IT!
BO
(BOONF)
BO
BO
IF WE KEEP THIS UP, THOUGH...
...WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO BEAT...
...THEM...
PAKARA (CLIP-CLOP)
PAKA
PAKARA


EXPIATION: DEATH
OHH...
...JUST AWFUL.
HER TASTE IS...


OH. CRUD.
BWA HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA!
PFFT!
AAAAH!
AH!
AH!
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH YOU...?
COME. LET'S RETURN.
PRIN-CESS...
HAA...
YOU STOLE OUT OF THE CASTLE AGAIN.


IZ-
IZUTSU-MI...
HAA.!
HAFF!
LISTEN.
—AND THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED...
IF WE ALL DIE HERE, NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO RESURRECT US.
GO GET HELP.
PLEASE...!
RUN AWAY, RIGHT NOW.
NO ONE COULD BEAT A HORDE LIKE THAT ON THEIR OWN.
HOW DO YOU KNOW THE SUCCUBI DIDN'T GET THEM TOO!?
HEY!
.....
HELP!? WHERE WOULD I FIND HELP DOWN HERE!?
TH-THE PEOPLE FROM THAT CAMPSITE... MAYBE...


I SWEAR, I REALLY SHOULD.
I DON'T NEED YOU PEOPLE.
WHY ARE YOU GOING AROUND WITH US, THEN?
GO FIND THEM ON YOUR OWN. THAT WOULD BE FASTER.
IDIOTS!
(OOGUH (WHAMP)
YOU CALL THIS "HELPING EACH OTHER"?
NOBODY HELPED ME.
I SURVIVED ON MY OWN ALL THIS TIME.
TAKING HELP NOW WOULD BE...
RIGHT.
I'M NOT ASKING ANYONE FOR HELP.










CHAPTER 58: THE END


59. SUCCUBUS -2-


クル
KURU
KURU (SPIN)
HURRY UP AND BRING IT.
PASH! (SNATCH)
WHAT'S WRONG, SUCCUBI?
I JUST HAVE TO KEEP FROM LOOKING STRAIGHT AT THEM.
GO...!!N'T
IF ALL THEY DO IS LUNGE AT ME, I CAN WIN WITH MY EYES SHUT.
IZUTSUMI.
ギョッ
GYO (SHOCK)


TCH!
DAMMIT! I LOOKED.
BUT...
MY, HOW YOU'VE GROWN.
IZU-TSUMI.
THAT'S NOT MY TYPE OF—
NICE TRY, BUT NO!
カラン
KARAN (CLANG)
ZOWA (SHUDDER)


WHY?
WHY? WHY?
OH, IZUTSUMI.
LET ME SEE YOUR PACE.
MOM...
M...
.....
WHY...
WHY AM I SO HAPPY?
I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER MY MOTHER, BUT I KNOW THIS IS HER! WHY!?
WHY?


GURI (TWIST)
DŌ (SWOOSH)
TON (TAP)


...WHY CAN I KILL HER LIKE THAT'S NORMAL!?
GUSHA (SPLIT)
AREN'T I SUPPOSED TO FREEZE UP!?
COULD IT BE...
...BECAUSE I'VE GOT A MONSTER SOUL MIXED INTO ME?
DO I... NOT HAVE A HEART!?
NU (LOOM)
MY CHILD.
ZORO (SWARM)
IZU-TSUMI.
COME TO ME..
ZORO
MY BABY
WAAH!
DOGU (SHUNK)
IS THAT THE ONLY TRICK YOU KNOW!?


BA (LEAP)
ナッ
NU!
ブチ
BUCHI (SNAP)
ブチ
BUCHI
ブチ
BUCHI
ギリ
GI
GIRI (STRAIN)
GHK!
カッ
GA (GRAB)
GRR.
HM?
THE SPOTS WHERE THE FLUID SPLASHED ARE HOT.
THEY'RE WEAK. BUT THOSE NEEDLES ARE TROUBLE.
IS THAT WHAT THEY USE TO SUCK OUT "LIFE FORCE"?


DOO (THUDD)
A NEW MON-STER!?
NU (GASP)
WHAT, THAT ONE'S A SUCCUBUS TOO!?
DOSA (WHAMM)
PA (THWOP)


RGH!
PYON (HOP)
WA CRUSHED
B-WA SHUDDER
SUTAN (TMP)
!
BI (RUP)
BISHI (CREAK)
BISHI
BISHI
EACH ONE IS WEAK, BUT THERE'S TOO MANY.
IF THIS KEEPS UP, THEY'LL SWARM ME.
I NEED A WAY TO GET THEM ALL AT ONCE—


WINGS...


NO WAY...
TSURU (FLIP)
BUAN (THRUM)
あん
ドガン
GOBOH (BLOSH)
SA (SWISH)
BUAN (GLIDE)
GOBOH (GLIDE)


IF I SURFACE, THEY'LL GET ME!
GO SOME-WHERE ELSE!


PICHI (FLAP)
BITAN
BITAN (SPLUT)
BASHA (SPLASH)
PO
GASHI
GASHI (GRAB)
I KNEW IT! I SHOULDA JUST RUN FOR IT!
DAMMIT! WHY IS THIS HAPPENING TO ME!?
GOBO
GOBO (BLUB)
PITA (FREEZE)


BWAAAH!
BA (GUARD)
GO (GFF)
ORO (GFFET)
PICHI (WRIGGLED)
PICHI


.....?
SA
GWIIID
PICHI
ピチ
ピチ
PICHI
ガッ
GA
RAS
BUWA
SHIVERD
わっ
ふ!!


ヒュ!!
(SHIN) RYU
ヒュ!!
(SHIN) RYU
OMOSHIROI NIKAO
BA (LUNGE)


SO (SNEAK)
SHH
SHIN (SILENCE)
HFF...
HFF...


SHHH... (SILENCE)
SO...
...WHAT DO I DO ABOUT THIS?
I DON'T REALLY GET IT, BUT IT WORKED OUT.
ARE THEY BACK!?
GA (MMP)
PUWAAN (OPEN)
HM!?


THEY'RE GONE.
NORO (PLOD)
NORO
URP!
WHEWWW
HUH?
BAKI (SNAP)
BOKO (WHUNK)
GON (CLANG)
GASU (THWOK)
...SHE'S GOT AWFUL TASTE.
OH. ARE THEY THE SUCCUBI THAT DRANK MARCILLE AND CHILCHUCK'S LIFE FORCE?
THRASHED THEM ON REFLEX
WHAT ARE THESE GUYS?
GENIUS.
...THEN WON'T PUTTING IT BACK MAKE THEM NORMAL AGAIN?
IF THEY'RE DRIED UP BECAUSE THEY LOST THEIR LIFE FORCE...


THIS IS THE ONE THAT TRIED TO CHARM ME.
...THESE ARE CHIL-CHUCK'S.
UH. SO...
THIS IS THE SUCCUBUS THAT CHARMED MARCILLE, AND...
SO THIS LAST ONE IS...
BUT THAT WOULDN'T HAVE ANY EFFECT ON ME.
DON'T TELL ME... WAS IT TRYING TO CHARM THE MONSTER THAT'S MIXED INTO ME!?
A CAT...


...MAYBE IT WASN'T BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE A HUMAN HEART.
WAS IT BECAUSE I HAVE TWO HEARTS, AND IT ONLY WORKED ON ONE OF THEM?
WAIT A SEC.
SO WHEN SEEING MY MOTHER DIDN'T SHAKE ME UP...
...SO IS THIS YOUR TYPE?
I THOUGHT I'D BEEN ALONE ALL THIS TIME...
...BUT IN A WAY, I GUESS I WASN'T.
HUH.
YOU'VE GOT PRETTY DECENT TASTE.


PYUUU
WHOA! SOMETHING WHITE CAME OUT.
IT SMELLS LIKE MILK...
KUN KUN KUN (SNIFF)
TOSU!! (SHNK)
PYU (SPURT)
GYUU (MOOSH)
JYOOO (SPLOSH)
HUP!
IT SEEMS OKAY...
...BUT I'LL HEAT IT JUST IN CASE.
BOKO (BLUP)
BOIL THOROUGHLY.
KON (TUNK)


MEH, WHATEVER.
ZABAA (SHJFF)
WHICH POWDER IS IT?
HMM...
I BOILED IT, AND NOW THERE'S LESS.
SHE SAID THEY'D NEED LOTS OF NUTRIENTS.
SHOULD I ADD SUGAR OR SOME-THING?
KUN
SO (SHFF) KUN...
GACHA (CLANK)
GACHA
GURU (STIR) GURU
HOT SUCCUBUS MILK
Ingredients
Succubus milk—3 liters
White powder (unidentified)—Lots
ENERGY
PROTEIN
FAT
CARBS
CALCIUM
IRON
VITAMIN A
VITAMIN B2
VITAMIN C


PAN (PAT)
ぱん
PAN
ぱん
BASA (FLAP)
ばさっ
ZURU (DRAG)
ズルズル
ZURU
DOSA (THUMP)
ドサ
HFF...
HFF...


HEY. OPEN YOUR MOUTH.
GUI (THUD)
SUU (GLOW)
BITA (BLOP)
BITA
FWOO... FWOO...
THERE!
ZUBO (THUP)
GHK!
KYU (PINCH)
PAKA (POP)
I THINK HE'S A LITTLE BETTER.
THIS IS FUNNY...
CHUU
MOGO (MOW)
MOGO
CHUU (SUCK)
CHU


OKAY. I'LL JUST KEEP THAT UP, AND...
KON (CLUNK)
KYUPO (POP)
CHUU (SUCK)
CHUU


ゴシ
GOSHI GOSHI CHOPED
ゴシ
ZZZ...
ZZZ...
PHEW
YAWWN...


NO... WHERE...
WHOA! MARCILLE.
WE GOT HIT BY SUCCUBI.
HUH!? CLOSE.
YUSA (SHAKE)
WAKE UP...
LAIOS, WAKE UP.
YUSA
AH!
WHO DID THIS?
PROBABLY IZUTSUMI... AND THEN...
OH! RIGHT! THE SUCCUBI!!
GABA (BOLT)
...ISN'T THAT HER OVER THERE?
WAIT. YOU'RE NOT UP TO THAT YET.
WE HAVE TO GO FIND HER.
FURA (SWAY)
DON'T TELL ME SHE TOOK THE STUFF I SAID SERIOUSLY...
...WHEN I WOKE UP, SHE WASN'T ANY-WHERE.

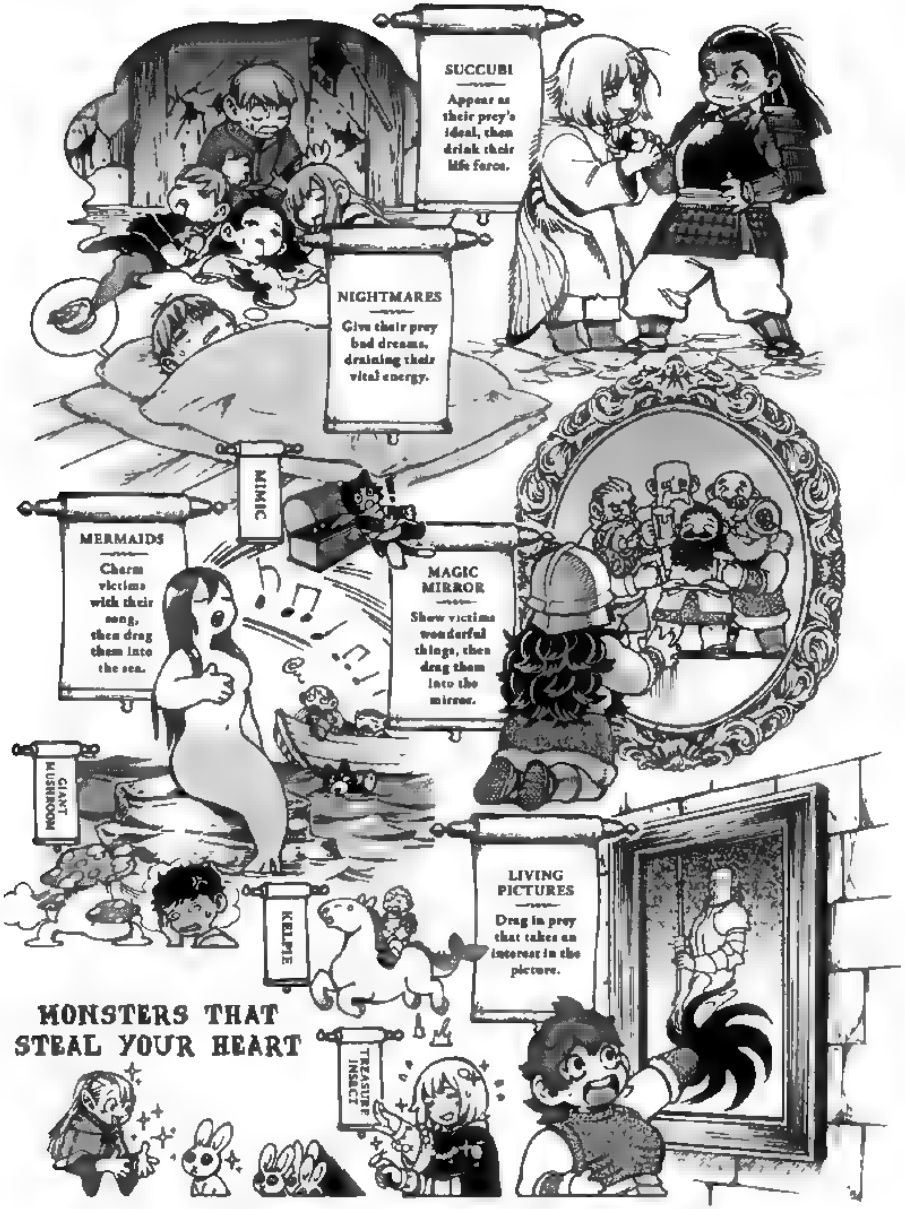

.....
SHE WAS ASLEEP UP THERE?
GAKU (SLUMP)
GEEZ. GIMME A BREAK.
I SWEAR, SHE JUST DOES WHATEVER SHE WANTS!
HAAAAH!
WHO'S WORRIED !!?
YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT IT THAT MUCH.
...BUT SHE KNOWS WE NEED HER.
IZUTSUMI PROBABLY DOESN'T THINK SHE NEEDS US...
PON PATO


HEY, A SUCCUBUS LARVA.
AHA!
THIS FOUNTAIN MUST HAVE BEEN THEIR BREEDING GROUND.
THEIR OFFICIAL NAME IS "SUCCUBUS MOSQUITO."
THEY'RE AN UNUSUAL INSECT THAT REARS THEIR YOUNG ON MILK.
SUCCUBUS TAKE LIFE FORCE...
...IN OTHER WORDS, BLOOD AND THE LIKE, FROM ANIMALS.
THEIR BODIES CONVERT IT INTO MOTHER'S MILK, WHICH THEY FEED TO THEIR YOUNG.
*PARENTHETICALLY, THE MILK IS GIVEN THROUGH THEIR REARS.
IT GIVES INTENSE PLEASURE, BUT WHEN THAT WEARS OFF—
...WHEN THEY DRINK BLOOD, THEY INJECT SALIVA THAT HAS NUMBING PROPERTIES.
IT PREVENTS CLOTTING AND KEEPS THEIR PREY FROM STRUGGLING.
THAT'S RIGHT. JUST LIKE ACTUAL MOSQUITOES...
HUH...?
SO... THEY'RE MOSQUITOES?


BORI
BORI
BORI
BORI
BORI (SCRATCH)
IT GETS INTENSELY ITCHY!!
THERE ARE SUCCUBUS DEMONS TOO.
ACTUALLY...
I THINK THAT'S WHERE THE NAME CAME FROM.
STILL, MOSQUITOES...
I JUST ASSUMED THEY WERE DEMONS.
THAT'S WHY PEOPLE PROCESS IT INTO DRINKS OR INCENSE.
GOOD MOVE.
I'M NOT INTRIGUED AT ALL.
WHAT INTRIGUING CREATURES.
I WONDER HOW MONSTERS ARE CREATED.
...BUT IT'S ODD HOW VERY SIMILAR MONSTERS TEND TO BE DISCOVERED LATER ON.
THEY'RE IMAGINARY, MYTHICAL BEINGS, OR THEY SHOULD BE...
I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THOSE, BUT...
DEMONS, HUH...?




CHAPTER 59: THE EN■




# 60. The Winged Lion

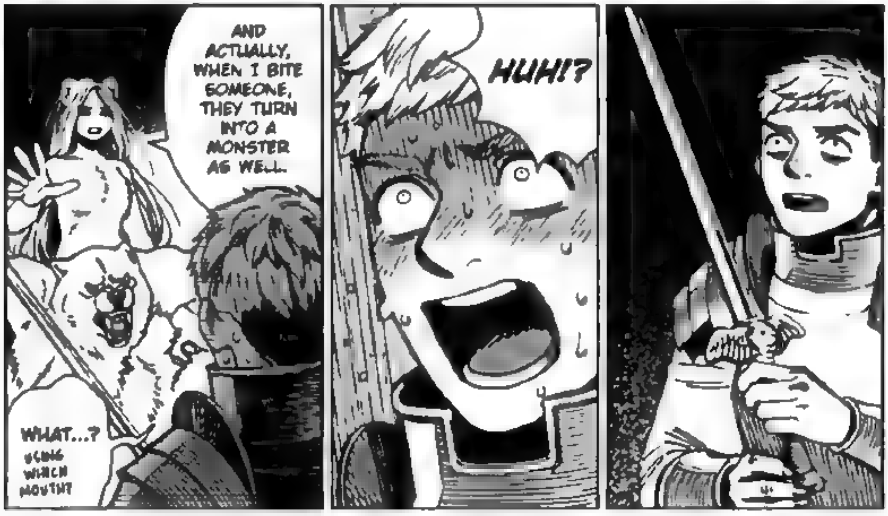

GOSO
GOSO (RUMMAGE)
I WANTED TO FIND OUT WHETHER SUCCUBI REALLY DID DRINK MILK...
GAKKARI (CROOP)
KARA (EMPTY)
KARÁ
OH! WE'RE OUT, HUH?
GOSO
MILK, MILK...
GOSO
LAIOS.
THEY SAY IF YOU PUT MILK BY YOUR PILLOW, THE SUCCUBUS WILL DRINK THAT AND YOU'LL ESCAPE UNHARMED.
THAT'S THE DEMON TYPE OF SUCCUBUS, THOUGH, NOT THIS KIND.


OH, MARCILLE.
RIGHT. I'M SORRY; I SHOULDN'T HAVE GONE ALONE.
WE'RE OUT OF MILK...


GO (WHUD)
GA (GRAB)
THIS ISN'T MARCILLE.
A SHAPE-SHIFTER?
NO, A SUCCUBUS!
WHY DOES SHE LOOK LIKE MARCILLE ...?
I HAVE TO HUSH THIS UP.
SUCK (SHING)
WA...
UH-OH. THEY'RE GOING TO GET THE WRONG IDEA.
LAIOC YOU MAKE ME ILL.
WHA ..?
YOU SAW ME LIKE THAT?
NO ROMANCE ON THE JOB!
WHA- DID I TELL YOU?
IZUTSUMI
..DO (BADUMP)


.....
?
I GUESS SO.
IF I WERE A SUCCUBUS, YOU'D BE CHARMED ALREADY.
RIGHT?
WAIT, LAIOS.
ACTU-ALLY, I...
KOFF! KOFF!
WHY ARE YOU HERE ALONE? WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?
SU (SHF)
YOU SEE...
MISHI CHEW
...THE TRUTH IS...
I HAVE TO TELL YOU SOMETHING.
TELL ME SOME-THING?
MISHI
MISHI
BAKIK CRUNCH


...I'M A MONSTER.
GIGA HEPTA-HEAD MARCILLE


AND ACTUALLY, WHEN I BITE SOMEONE, THEY TURN INTO A MONSTER AS WELL.
WHAT...?
USING WHICH MOUTH?
HUH!?


YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE SOMETHING INHUMAN, HAVEN'T YOU?
SHE'S A SCYLLA...
B-BUT OUR FRIENDS...
LAIOS, BECOME A MONSTER.
YOU WON'T HAVE TO HURT FALIN THAT WAY.
IZUTSUMI
GIGA DOUBLE-HEADED FLAME ICE CHIL-CHUCK
GIGA DOUBLE-HEADED FLAME ICE SENSHI
I ALREADY BIT ALL OF THEM.
OH, THEM. NO WORRIES!
PERO CLICK
EXACTLY.
OH. I WON'T WORRY, THEN...
OKAY, HERE GOES.


ARE YOU AN IDIOT?
CHIRA (PEEK)
WE'RE IN YOUR DREAM.
YOU WERE BITTEN BY A SUCCUBUS AND PASSED OUT.
MARCILLE ...!?
WAUGH!!
WHAT IS THIS?
OH.
UM, WHO ARE YOU?
NO, IT'S...
IS THIS ANY TIME TO BE FALLING FOR CHEAP TRAPS!?
YOU HAVE A MISSION, REMEMBER!?
HEY!
SO THAT MARCILLE REALLY WAS A SUCCUBUS?


I HAVEN'T INTRO-DUCED MYSELF.
I AM...
WELL, I DON'T HAVE A SPECIFIC NAME OR SHAPE...
...BUT MOST PEOPLE CALL ME "THE WINGED LION."
KEN-SUKE?
...THROUGH THE EYES OF YOUR SMA... FRIEND HERE.
LAIOS. I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU ALL THIS TIME.
YOUR GROUP IS NEARING THE BOTTOM OF THE DUNGEON.
...AND SO I'M FINALLY ABLE TO SPEAK TO YOU.
HUH!? YOU'RE THE ...?
HOW-EVER.
BEFORE THAT!
...TO HELP YOU DEFEAT SISSEL, THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN.
YOU WANT ME...
I KNOW.
UM. WE'RE...


TH-THE SAVIOR...!?
DO (THUMP)
LAIOS, YOU REALLY MUST BE MORE SELF-AWARE!
UNDER-STAND THAT YOU ARE THE SAVIOR OF THIS COUNTRY!
I HAVE A QUES-TION.
WHY ME?
I DID IT ON SISSEL'S REQUEST, BUT THE PEOPLE AND MON-STERS... WELL..
I CREATED THE DUNGEON AND ITS MONSTERS TO PROTECT THIS LAND AND ITS PEOPLE.
...I...
BUT YOU WERE DIFFERENT.
THE PEOPLE BECAME GHOSTS.
MOST ADVENTURERS CUT THEM AND THE MONSTERS DOWN, TRAMPLED THEM UNDERFOOT, AND STRIPPED OFF THE GOLD.
WHEN YOU'VE SPENT A THOUSAND YEARS WITH THEM, YOU GET ATTACHED.


YOU LOVE THE MONSTERS.
YOU EAT THEM, SO THEIR DEATHS WON'T BE WASTED.
I'M PRETTY SURE I'VE KILLED QUITE A FEW MYSELF.
AND I MADE SHEKBET.
I DON'T DENY THAT.
IT SEEMS SIMILAR, BUT IT TRULY IS DIFFER-ENT.
LAIOS!
I WANT TO ENTRUST YOU WITH THIS LAND...
...ITS PEOPLE...
.. AND ITS MONSTERS.
HM.
MOJI (FIDGET)
TH-THAT'S KIND OF, UH.
MOJI
THIS IS A GOOD CHANCE.
WHY DON'T WE LOOK AT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN...
...IF YOU BECAME KING OF THIS COUNTRY?
YOU'RE STILL HESITANT?


BROTHER...
BROTHER, WAKE UP.
HER LOWER HALF IS BACK.
FALIN...
IT'S TIME FOR BREAKFAST.
EVERY-ONE'S WAITING.
IS THIS A DREAM TOO?
IT'S A THOUGHT EXPERIMENT BUI..T ON YOUR DREAM.
WHOA! WHAT IS THIS PLACE...?


MORNING, YOUR MAJESTY!
MORNING.
GOOD MORNING, YOUR MAJESTY.
GOOD MORNING ...
WHO ARE THOSE PEOPLE?
YOUR CITIZENS.
ALL RIGHT. I'LL LET LORD SENSHI KNOW.
A READY ANSWER?
WYVERN ...
COCKA-TRICE OR BASILISK?
WE HAVE WYVERN EGGS AS WELL.
WHAT KIND OF ROLLED OMELET DID YOU WANT THIS MORNING?
OH, THAT'S RIGHT, MASTER LAIOS.


MARCILLE!
WE DECIDED WE WOULDN'T TALK ABOUT BUSINESS DURING MEALS, REMEMBER?
WITH REGARD TO BUILDING A SHOPPING DISTRICT ON THE THIRD FLOOR...
COME HELP ME SERVE.
TAKE A BREAK.
WE AREN'T EATING YET
I HAVE ALL SORTS OF BUSINESS TO DISCUSS.
MORNING, LAIOS.
YOU'RE FINALLY UP.
TENSAI GENIUS
SHE HAS A GIFT FOR THIS.
I'M SURE IT WILL BE A FINE DUNGEON.
OH.
THAT'S GOOD. SHARING THE WORK EXPANDS THE POSSIBILITIES.
APPARENTLY SHE'S IN CHARGE OF DUNGEON DESIGN, FOR THE MOST PART.


ENERGY
VITAMIN C
PROTEIN
VITAMIN B2
FAT
VITAMIN A
CARBS
IRON
CALCIUM
THANKS FOR THE FOOD!
THE BREAKFAST MENU
Rye bread
Wyvern rolled omelet
Hippogriff sausage
Walking mushroom soup
PASS ME THAT.
YUM.
WANT SECONDS?
WHY ARE YOU SPACING OUT?
THE DIRE WOLF WHELPED YESTERDAY...
—IOS.
LAIOS!
AH!
HAVEN'T I HAD ANY WYVERN
GU
GU CRUSH
MARCILLE AND I WILL HANDLE THE SIMPLE JOBS FOR YOU.
DON'T BABY HIM
YOU'RE TIRED.
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE TODAY OFF AND GO RELAX IN TOWN?


CAUGHT FRESH THIS MORNING!
THANKS FOR YOUR BUSINESS
HOWEVER, MOST SEEM TO BE FROM THE SURFACE.
YOUR IDEAS STRUCK A CHORD WITH THEM.
SOME WERE IN THE DUNGEON ALREADY.
THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE...




...WHAT DO YOU THINK?
IS THIS... INSIDE THE DUNGEON?
INDEED IT IS. YOU BUILT THIS TOWN.
I'VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE EITHER. BUT...
YOU SEEM TO HAVE BANNED EXPLORATION...
...AND YOUR ECONOMY TURNS ON THE PRODUCTS OF HARMLESS MONSTERS.
SO WE TRADE WITH THE WORLD OUTSIDE THE DUNGEON!?
HARMLESS MONSTERS...
IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE?
WHY ARE YOU SURPRISED?
SISSEL COMMANDED THEM NOT TO ATTACK THE PEOPLE OF HIS COUNTRY
THE DUNGEON OBEYS ITS MASTER'S WISHES.
...WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU!?
I AM MERELY POWER.
THE POWER TO FULFILL THE WISH OF THE LORD OF THE DUNGEON.


YOU CAN EAT IT JUST AS IT IS.
HERE, HAVE ONE.
IT'S A FRESH-PICKED BARO-METZ.
MISTER LAIOS.
GIVE THESE TO MISTER SENSHI!
ALSO THIS, THIS, AND THIS.
IT'S A DREAM, SO I CAN'T TASTE IT.
UU...
LET ME HAVE A BITE.
SHAKU CRUNCH
SHAKU
IT'S STILL AN EMBRYO?
...NO GOOD.
GAKUSHI (CROOP)
AND HERE I THOUGHT I'D HAVE MY FIRST MEAL IN AGES...
SHAKU


HEH.
YOU EAT SUCH DELICIOUS-LOOKING THINGS— EVERY SINGLE DAY!
HOWEVER, AFTER BEING FORCED TO WATCH YOUR MEALS, I STARTED TO MISS IT, REGARDLESS OF WHAT I ACTUALLY REQUIRE.
YOU DON'T EAT?
AS A PRISONER...
...IT ISN'T SOMETHING I PARTICULARLY NEED TO DO.
A PRISONER... WHERE ARE YOU NOW?
SISSEL'S HOUSE ISN'T FAR FROM YOUR CURRENT LOCATION.
I'M LOCKED IN THERE.
I'LL USE KENSUKE TO GUIDE YOU.
DIRTY VARLET!
YAAH! YAAH!
IF YOU WATCH FOR A CHANCE, STEAL IN, AND RELEASE ME..
...I CAN KEEP HIS POWER AT BAY FOR A LITTLE WHILE.


WHAT'S GOING ON?
HE'S A POACHER.
HOWEVER, THOSE ARE THE VERY CREATURES THAT DRAW ADVENTURERS.
MONSTERS THAT DON'T HARM PEOPLE CAN'T DEFEND THEMSELVES.
MANDRAKES, UNICORNS, TREASURE INSECTS, SUCCUBI...
MONSTERS THAT HAVE MONETARY VALUE ARE NATIONAL PROPERTY.
HMM...
ALLOW SELF-DEFENSE ONLY WHEN SOMEONE'S ATTACKED?
NO, THAT'S A BAD IDEA.
POST MORE GUARDS..
KEEP NON-CITIZENS OUT— NO, THAT WOULDN'T BE GOOD...
TAKE THAT!
WRETCH!
SCUM!
THAT'S... A TOUGH ONE.
HOW WOULD YOU HANDLE IT?


YOU FILTHY TRAITOR.
AT FIRST HE JUST WANTED TO PROTECT THE CITIZENS.
BUT AS HE KEPT TRYING TO FIX MINOR DAMAGE...
I WONDER IF THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN RAN UP AGAINST THIS SORT OF PROBLEM.
STILL ...
...I MAY HAVE BEEN THINKING OF THIS SORT OF THING ALL ALONG.
DOES IT DISPLEASE YOU NOW?
HM. .
...FRANKLY, THIS PLACE STILL ISN'T A UTOPIA.
THE PEOPLE ARE POOR, AND THERE'S A LOT OF CONFLICT.
I GET THE FEELING THIS PLACE COULD MAKE THAT WISH COME TRUE.
IF THERE'S A WORLD WHERE WE CAN COEXIST WITH MONSTERS, I WANT TO SEE IT.
I FOUND THE DYNAMIC WEIRDLY FRUSTRATING, AND I WONDERED IF I COULD CHANGE IT SOMEHOW.
..EVEN IF ONLY BY USING THEM AS FOOD.
WE'RE ALL CREATURES FROM THE SAME WORLD. YET ALL WE CAN DO IS KILL EACH OTHER.


I'VE REALLY TAKEN A LIKING TO YOU.
YOU ARE AN INTER-ESTING MAN.
HEH!
WELL? IS YOUR MIND MADE UP?
...YES.
I'D LIKE TO SEE HOW THIS WORLD PLAYS OUT.






ちゃ
ちゃ
SUDDENLY THERE'S SOMETHING SWEET IN MY MOUTH.
I FEEL ALL WARM
WHAT IS THIS?
IT'S GOOD.
HUH? WHAT?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR FACE?
CHUU
YOU'LL WAKE UP SOON.
YOU MAY LOSE MOST OF YOUR MEMORIES OF THIS DREAM.
HOWEVER, DON'T FORGET WHAT YOU FELT HERE.
CHUU CHUU
ちゃ
ちゃ
OUR TIME'S ALMOST UP.


I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU, LAIOS.
LET'S MEET AGAIN SOON, LAIOS!
BEWARE THE CANARIES.
CANAR-IES?
A WORD OF WARNING...
WAH!


I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER.
SOMETHING ABOUT HOW HE'D GUIDE US...
UMM. WHAT WAS IT...?
HEY.
—WELL?
YOU SAID YOU TALKED WITH THE WINGED LION.
WHAT DID YOU TALK ABOUT?
WHAT ELSE DO YOU REMEMBER?
UM...
THEN IT REALLY WAS THE WINGED LION'S POWER THAT OPENED THAT DOOR.
HE SAID HE WATCHED US THROUGH KENSUKE.
UH... OH, RIGHT. KENSUKE.
THERE WAS A WYVERN-EGG OMELET FOR BREAKFAST.
I ATE A RAW BAROMETZ...
IN THE DREAM, NOBODY MINDED EATING MONSTERS.
IT SOUNDS MORE LIKE A FEVER-INDUCED NIGHTMARE.
IT WAS FUN.
IT WAS REALLY FUN.
JUST THAT IT WAS FUN.


DON (BAM)
NIGHT-MARE.
LET'S EAT!
IT MAY BE BECAUSE YOU HAVEN'T QUITE REGAINED ALL YOUR LOST LIFE FORCE.
ONLY, SINCE IT WAS A DREAM, I HAVEN'T ACTUALLY EATEN A THING...
I'M SORT OF HUNGRY.
KNEAD WITH SALT, PAT DRY.
SUI (SLIP)
CUT OFF THE HEAD, RUN A CHOPSTICK THROUGH A GAP IN THE SHELL, AND DEVEIN IT.
PEEL OFF THE SHELL.
PERI (KRAK) PERI
YOUNG SUC-CU-BUS.
KUTA (BURBLE)
KUTA
SIMMER FOR A BIT, ADJUST-ING SEA-SONINGS.
JYA (SIZZLE)
CUT UP VEGETA-BLES AND STIR-FRY WITH THE LARVA MEAT.
ONCE IT'S HEATED THROUGH, ADD WHEAT FLOUR AND SUCCUBUS MILK.


LADLE THE THICKENED CONTENTS OF THE POT OVER STEAMED RICE.
REMOVE THE BICORN BRAIN'S MEMBRANE, THEN BOIL LIGHTLY.
SCATTER SHREDDED BRAIN AND CHEESE ON TOP.
COVER AND BRIEFLY HEAT IT AGAIN, AND THEN...
ENERGY
VITAMIN C
PROTEIN
VITAMIN B2
FAT
VITAMIN A
CARBS
IRON
CALCIUM
IT'S DONE!
SUCCUBUS AND BICORN BRAIN DORIA
Ingredients
Succubus (larva)—5
Succubus milk—1 liter
Onion—1
Carrot—1
Walking mushroom—1
Rice—1 large potful
Spices—To taste
Bicorn brain—1
Wheat flour
and cheese—To taste


I'VE NEVER EATEN LARVA BEFORE.
OOOOH!
IT'S INCREDIBLY GOOD.
IT'S SPRINGY, AND IT TASTES LIKE MILK.
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE IT'S RAISED ON MILK...
...NOT BAD AT ALL.
NO REALLY, THIS IS...
IF YOU DON'T EAT, YOU WON'T LAST.
YOU TOO, MARCILLE AND CHIL-CHUCK.
SHE DOESN'T WANT LARVAE OR BRAINS, BUT SHE'S FINE WITH TESTICLES ...?
I'D HAVE MORE OF A PROBLEM WITH THOSE.
SHIRA-KO?
YOU'VE NEVER HAD IT?
THEY PUT IT IN SOUPS.
IT'S FISH TESTI-CLES.
BRAIN IS ODDLY MILD TASTING.
HMFF!
IF YOU THINK OF IT AS SHIRAKO, IT'S JUST FINE.


LET'S FEED THE REST TO IZUTSUMI WHEN SHE WAKES UP.
WHEW! I'M FULL.
COME TO THINK OF IT...
I REMEMBERED ONE THING.
WHAT WAS IT?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT MEANS, THOUGH.
IT'S WHAT THE WINGED LION SAID RIGHT AT THE END.
"BEWARE OF THE CANARIES."


PAKU CRUNCH!
ALL RIGHT, KABRU. SAY "AAAAH."
I TOLD YOU...
GUI CRUSH
"AAAH."
MOGU CHEW
MOGU
...NOTHING HURTS ANYMORE !!
CHAPTER 61


SWORDS ...
YOU DON'T NEED THOSE, YOU KNOW.
I JUST GOT A LITTLE SCRAPED UP!
YOU STILL NEED TO REST.
FORGET THIS! START TRAINING ME WITH A SWORD AGAIN!
—LIKE YOU.
I WANT TO MAKE SURE THE TRAGEDY THAT HIT MY TOWN WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.
THAT MEANS I NEED TO GET STRONGER.
I WANT TO GO TO DUNGEONS.
GYUU (SQUEEZE)
BUT...
GU (GRIP)
BUT...!


MONSTERS OR TRAPS COULD HURT YOU.
YOU'D BE EXPOSED TO THE WORST KINDS OF PEOPLE.
YOU MIGHT FREEZE OR STARVE. THE MERE THOUGHT OF IT HURTS ME.
DUNGEONS ARE TERRIBLE PLACES.
Shu...
Guu
Chu (kiss)
Chu
YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW THE HORRORS OF THE DUNGEON.
IT'S WARM, AND THERE'S CAKE.
PURSUE OTHER INTERESTS, ALL RIGHT?
JUST STAY HERE ALWAYS.
I CAN'T PRETEND I DON'T KNOW ANYMORE!
EVEN IF YOU TEACH ME NOTHING, I'LL STILL GO TO THE DUNGEON, I SWEAR!
ARGH!


IF YOU'RE THAT DETER-MINED ...
...ALL RIGHT.
HNGH... NGH...
KABRU ...
KATA (SHAKE)
KATA
BURU (TREMBL) BURU
I'LL GIVE YOU THOROUGH TRAINING IN SWORDSMAN-SHIP...
...UNTIL YOU CAN BRING YOURSELF TO GIVE UP ENTIRELY.


WHEN I DID VENTURE INTO THE DUN-GEON...
...I FOUND TRAPS, MONSTERS, AND THE WORST KINDS OF PEOPLE...
...DURING THE SESSIONS AFTER THAT, I REALLY THOUGHT SHE'D KILL ME.
SNOW...
EVEN SO...
...AND I WAS UNBEARABLY COLD AND HUNGRY.
NO. NEVER.
...WOULD I GO BACK TO THAT ROOM, WHERE I CAN HAVE CAKE WHENEVER I WANT?

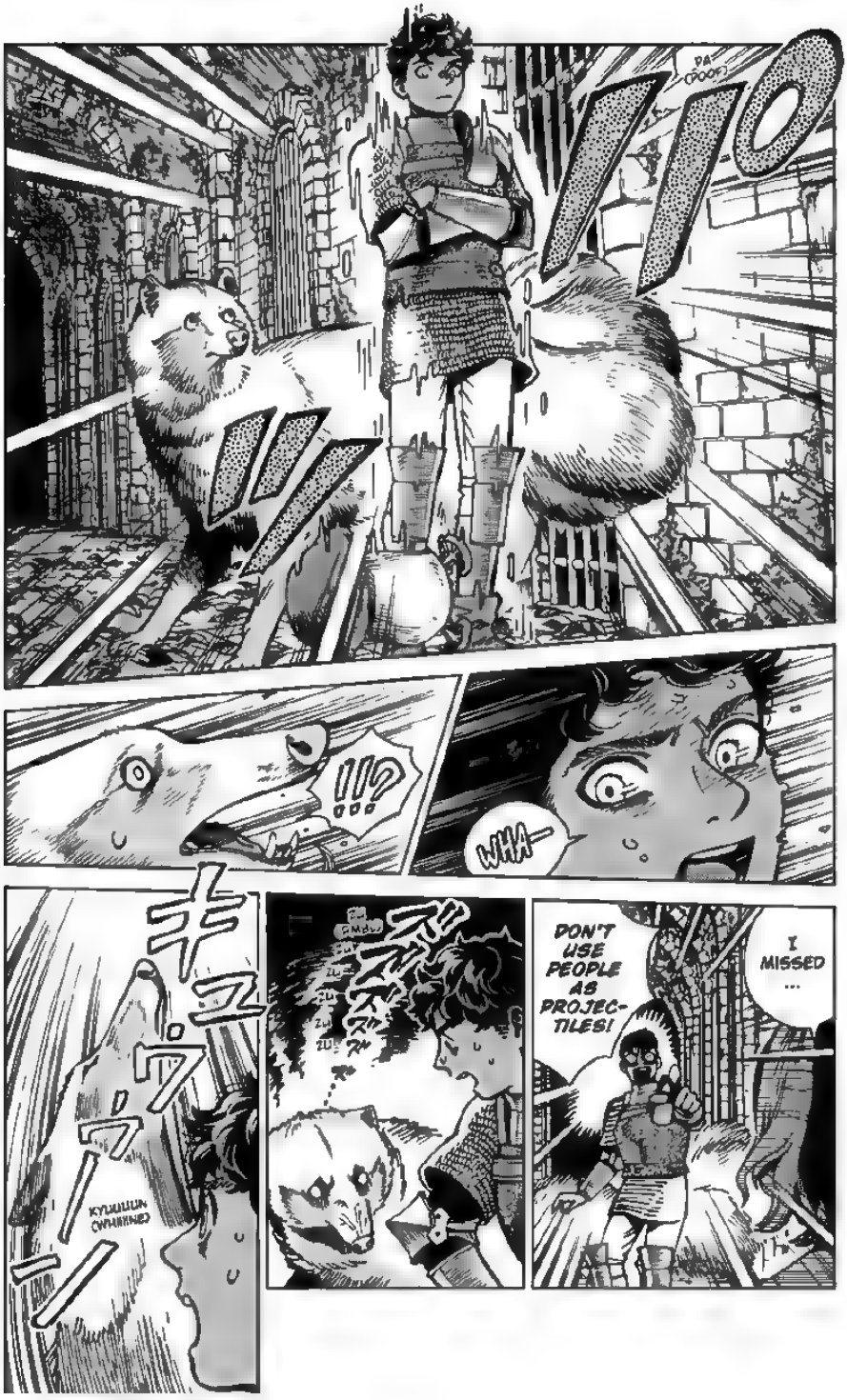

61. Roasted
Walking Mushroom


WE FELL A LONG WAYS, BUT I'M NOT HURT.
!?
WHY IS A WALKING MUSHROOM ON—
ARE YOU AWAKE?
GABA (BOLT)
WE FELL DOWN THAT HOLE... AND THEN WHAT!?
WHERE DID THE ELF GO?
OH NO. THE ONLY WEAPON I HAVE IS MY DAGGER.
CAN I GET IN CLOSE ENOUGH QUICK ENOUGH TO EVADE THAT TELE-PORTATION MAGIC!?
SUTA-(TAP?)
SUTA
HUH?
IT LOOKS AS IF THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN FELL ELSE-WHERE.
KURURI (TURN)
LET'S GO.


HE'S ACTING LIKE NOTHING EVER HAPPENED.
WHAT'S THE POINT IN LETTING ME LIVE?
WHY TAKE ME ALONG?
NO... NO MATTER WHAT HE'S AFTER, THIS IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY.
SUTA スタ
SUTA (STRIDE) スタ
I'LL SABOTAGE THE CANARIES' DUNGEON CAPTURE...
...AND EXPOSE THE MYSTERIES THAT THE LONG-LIVED RACES WANT TO CONCEAL!
SOUND HIM OUT.
WHAT SORT OF PERSON IS HE?
FIND A WAY TO INGRATIATE MYSELF WITH HIM.
CAPTAIN MITHRUN OF THE CANARIES.


GUARD
CRIMINALS
CRIMINALS' EARS ARE NOTCHED.
ONE GUARD FOR EVERY TWO CRIMINALS
MOST CANARY MEMBERS ARE CRIMINALS WHO ILLEGALLY MEDDLED WITH ANCIENT MAGIC.
THE REMAINDER ARE GUARDS, THE CHILDREN OF NOBLE FAMILIES WHO VOLUNTEERED IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR LOYALTY TO THE COUNTRY.
SINCE HE'S THE CAPTAIN, HE'S PROBABLY FROM A DISTINGUISHED FAMILY...
...BUT STRANGELY, HALF OF BOTH HIS EARS ARE GONE.
NOBLE
DEFINITELY SHELTERED
AND THEN...
EYES ARE BLACK? RARE FOR AN ELF
THE LACK OF ANY ACCENT MEANS HE'S FROM THE CENTRAL REGION.
HOW OLD IS HE, ABOUT 180?
180 OR OLDER
ABOUT 155 CM
WAIT.
WHAT...
DON (WHUMP)
I'M WEIRDLY UNINTERESTED IN WHAT KIND OF PERSON HE IS.
DID I HIT MY HEAD OR SOMETHING?


KA (SHARP)
KA
KA
GATSU (SCARF)
GATSU
GATSU
WE'LL STRIKE FIRST.
IT HASN'T NOTICED US YET.
A SHAPE...?
IT'S A SHAPE-SHIFTER.
TON (PAT)
HM?
SUKA (SWISH)
SUKA


DA
CHOOF!
!!?
WHA—
キュワーン
KYUUUUN
CHUUUNNED
I MISSED ...
DON'T USE PEOPLE AS PROJECTILES!


WAAH!?
BASA (RUSTLE)
BASA
BASA
BASA
BASA
BASA
GASP
GULP
IT GOT US.
THEY READ THE MINDS OF THE PEOPLE AROUND THEM AND MAKE IDENTICAL COUNTERFEITS.
SHAPESHIFTERS CREATE IMPOSTERS BASED ON A PERSON'S MEMORIES.


IDENTI-CAL?
IDENTI-CAL...
APPARENTLY THE CAPTAIN ISN'T INTERESTED IN ME AND HAS NO HIDDEN AGENDAS THAT INVOLVE ME.
...I SEE.
ZA (SHF)
THE MONSTER FLED, SO IF WE LEAVE THESE ALONE, THEY'LL DISAPPEAR BEFORE LONG.
LET'S GO.
CAPTAIN MITHRUN!
THAT'S WHERE WE JUST CAME FROM.
HAAH...
THERE'S NO POINT IN BEING ON EDGE, THEN.

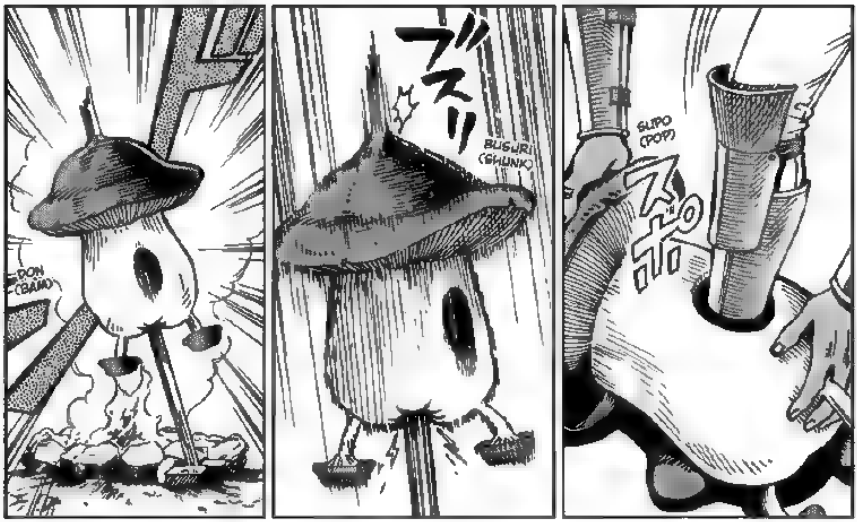

CAPTAIN!
OH!
GASA (RUSTLE)
THE SHAPE-SHIFTER WAS EATING SOMETHING.
IT'S HALF-EATEN...
ISN'T THIS A CANARY CONTACT FAIRY?
DID IT FOLLOW US HERE?
LONG-DISTANCE COMMUNICATOR
HELLO?
HELLO?
LOOK...
HEY, PATTADOL. CAN YOU HEAR ME?
TON (TAP)
TON
MUNZLU (GRAB)

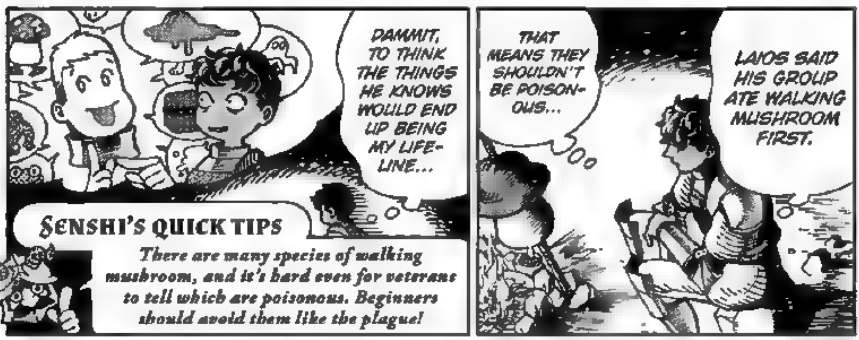

Captain Michrun!?
You're all right...!!
Hah!
A SHAPESHIFTER ATE HALF THE FAIRY.
IT WON'T LAST LONG.
I see.
IT'S SOME-WHERE COLD.
NO.
Where are you!?
What can you see?
Are you hurt!?
But then the Captain will...
.....
The hole's closing up.
Even for Pieki's familiar, it'll take a week.
That's deep.
Below the sixth floor?
HISO
HISO
HISO
HISO
PLAT
TIK
TIK

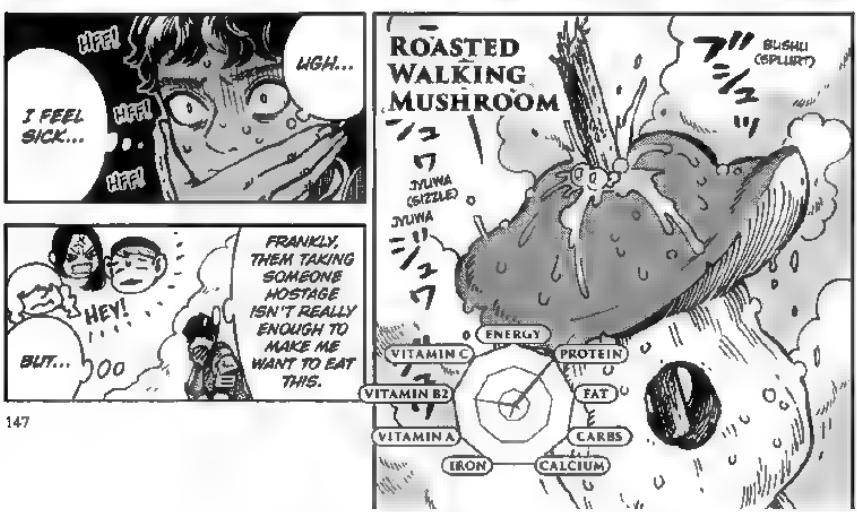

...Captain Mithrun.
What happened to the man who dragged you down with him?
...I'M HERE, ACTUALLY.
!!?
...You said your name's Kabru?
We have an urgent favor to ask.
You brazen little—! You dare—!?
SHUT UP!
Stop it. There's no time.
DON'T YELL.
It will be a week before we can come for the captain.
Until we do, we'd like you to see to his needs.
Food in particular!
Three meals a day.
If you feed him properly...
...we'll overlook this incident.
Of all the arbitrary—
MMF!
BE QUIET.


...So. Thanks for your help.
...we'll *entertain ourselves* with your companions.
However, if anything happens to the captain...
ONE WEEK...
IT'S DEAD.
GLTT (-_-;)
SEE TO HIS MEALS!?


PLEASE, NO...
I'VE NEVER COOKED IN MY...
AND WHERE WOULD I GET THE FOOD TO...
MADE OF HARPY EGGS!
HERE! IT'S A ROLLED OMELET
I DO NOT WANT TO END UP LIKE THAT GUY.
NO...! NO WAY! NEVER!!


DON (BAM)
BUSURI (SHUNK)
SUPO (POP)

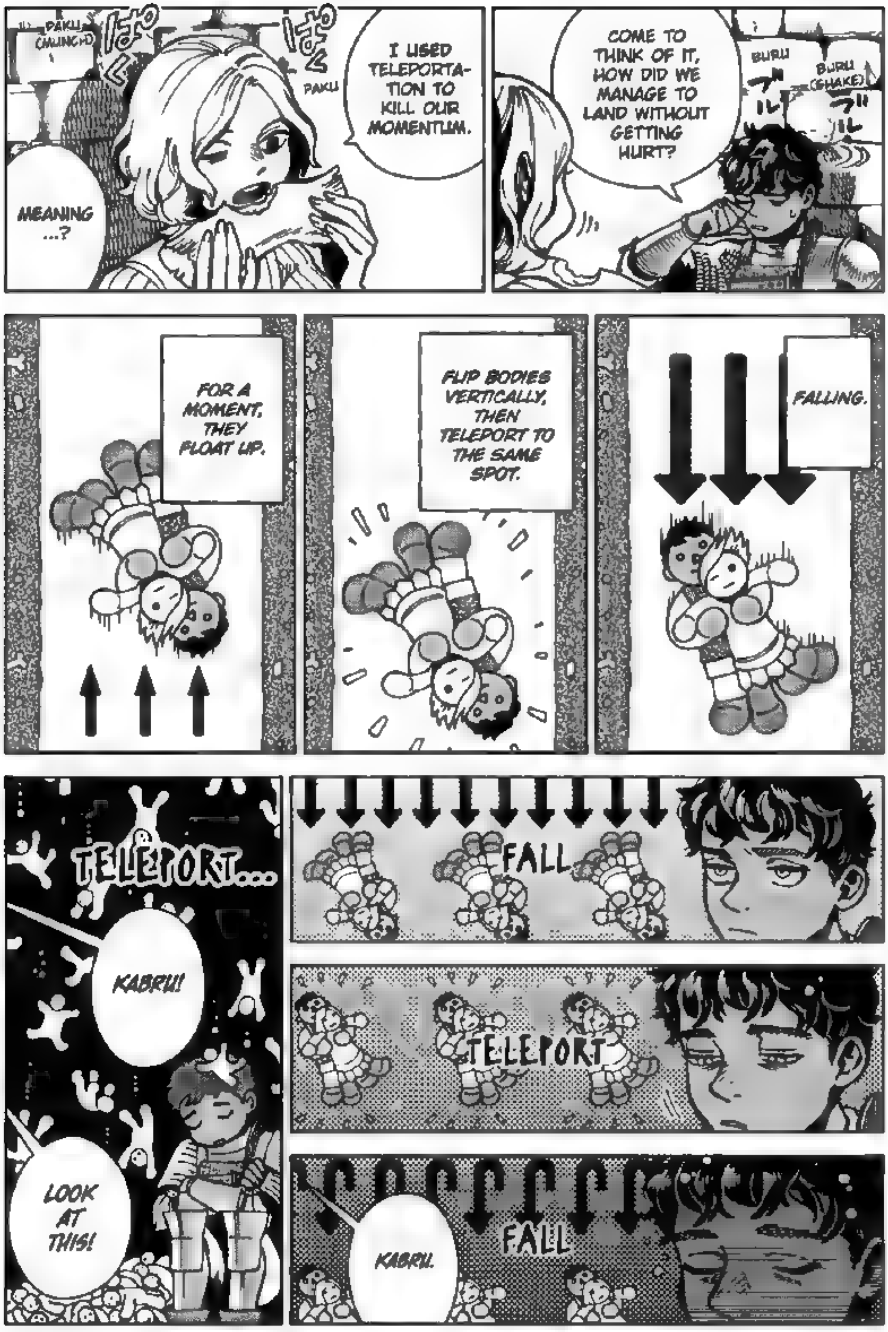

DAMMIT, TO THINK THE THINGS HE KNOWS WOULD END UP BEING MY LIFE-LINE...
SENSHI'S QUICK TIPS
There are many species of walking mushroom, and it's hard even for veterans to tell which are poisonous. Beginners should avoid them like the plague!
THAT MEANS THEY SHOULDN'T BE POISONOUS...
LAIOS SAID HIS GROUP ATE WALKING MUSHROOM FIRST.


HFF!
HFF!
HFF!
I FEEL SICK...
UGH...
HEY!
BUT...
FRANKLY, THEM TAKING SOMEONE HOSTAGE ISN'T REALLY ENOUGH TO MAKE ME WANT TO EAT THIS.
ROASTED WALKING MUSHROOM
BUSHU (SPURT)
JYUWA (SIZZLE)
JYUWA
ENERGY
PROTEIN
FAT
CARBS
CALCIUM
IRON
VITAMIN A
VITAMIN B2
VITAMIN C


GA (GRAB)
I'LL DO ANY-THING...
...TO SOLVE THE MYSTERIES OF THE DUNGEON!!
...CAPTAIN MITHRUN.
CAN YOU USE DETOX SPELLS OR RES-URRECTION MAGIC?
YES.
FWOO...
BUCHI
BUCHI (SNAP)
BUCHI
MUGYU (SKWISH)
HFF...
HFF...
...BUT WHILE IT'S AS HARD AS TREE BARK, IT'S WEIRDLY SPRINGY AND SLIMY...
...AND THE MOISTURE THAT OOZES OUT EVERY TIME I CHEW IS NASTY.
GO MU (CHAW)
GOMU
IT'S FLAVOR-LESS...
HAAH...


IT SEEMS EDIBLE ENOUGH.
GO AHEAD.
I'M NOT HUNGRY.
SENSHI'S QUICK TIPS
Trimming off around 3 cm of skin improves the texture!
IT'S TOUGH.
IT REALLY IS, ISN'T IT...
PAKU CHUNCH
HERE, CAPTAIN. SAY "AAAAH."


I'D EVEN SETTLE FOR MOSS OR RATS.
ANYTHING THAT ISN'T A MONSTER.
PACHI (SMACK)
PHEW...
WE NEED TO FIND WATER... AND SOME OTHER KIND OF FOOD.
...STILL, THERE'S NO WAY WE'LL LAST A WHOLE WEEK ON THIS.
LITO (DOZE)


PAKU (MUNCH)
PAKU
I USED TELEPORTATION TO KILL OUR MOMENTUM.
MEANING ...?
COME TO THINK OF IT, HOW DID WE MANAGE TO LAND WITHOUT GETTING HURT?
BURU
BURU (SHAKE)
FOR A MOMENT, THEY FLOAT UP.
FLIP BODIES VERTICALLY, THEN TELEPORT TO THE SAME SPOT.
FALLING.
TELEPORT...
KABRU!
LOOK AT THIS!
FALL
TELEPORT
KABRU
FALL

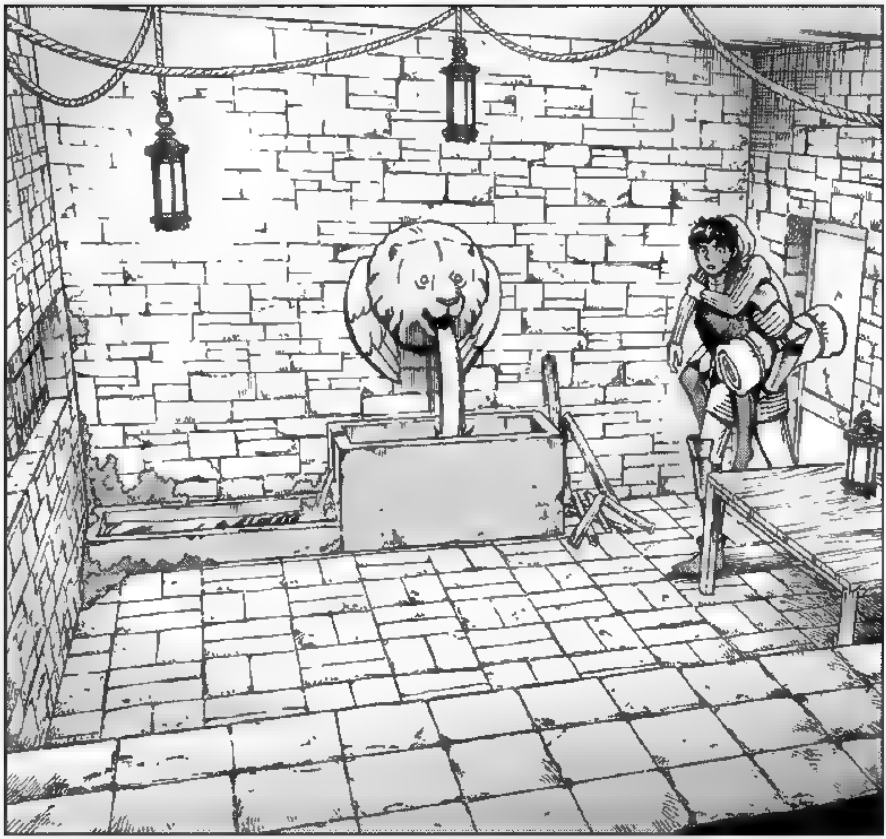

WE DEFEATED THE LORD OF THE DUNGEON. AND NOW IT'S ALL OURS!
HUH!? ARE YOU SERIOUS!?
GABA (BOLT)
ガバ
THAT'S INCREDIBLE!!
OH... I CHOSE RIGHT...
NOW WE'LL FIND OUT ABOUT THE DUNGEON MYSTERIES THE LONG-LIVED RACES HAVE BEEN HIDING!
JIIN (TEARY)
じぃーん
SO, I WAS THINKING...
...I'M GOING TO BUILD A MONSTER RANCH AND FARM FIELDS HERE AND TURN IT INTO A KINGDOM OF MONSTERS!
HUH?
PEOPLE DON'T INTEREST ME MUCH ANYWAY.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE DUNGEON'S MYSTERIES.
I'M CHOOSING THE PATH THAT WILL LET ME EAT MONSTERS FOREVER!
E...
FUFU (CREEL)
ふふっ...
E...!
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
ENEMY OF MANKIND!!


WAKE UP.
??
??
HUH?
WHA—?
IT'S JUST A DREAM.
?
BACHI! (SMACK)
THEY'RE NIGHT-MARES.
?
??
HUH?
YOU HAD A BAD DREAM, DIDN'T YOU?
JYARI (CLUNK)
THEY'RE STILL SMALL, SO IT WASN'T SERIOUS.
THAT LONG!?
ABOUT FIVE HOURS.
HOW LONG WAS I OUT?
I'LL KEEP WATCH NOW. WHY DON'T YOU REST A LITTLE?
IT FEELS LIKE I HAD A NIGHTMARE, BUT THAT SHOCK MADE ME FORGET ALL OF IT.
?
AH!
OH. I GUESS I FELL ASLEEP...
OW...
WE NEED TO FIND WATER.
SHALL WE EXPLORE, THEN?
SURE.
I'M NOT SLEEPY.
HE'S TOUGH...
EVEN THOUGH HE'S AN ELF.


NO FOOD, THOUGH!...
THERE ARE PACKS IN THE SNOW...
SLEEPING BAGS TOO.
I WONDER IF THEY BELONG TO ADVENTURERS THAT GOT WIPED OUT HERE.
WHAT A VAST PLACE.
...HM?
I WON'T HOLD BACK, THEN.
SO THIS IS WHERE HIS LITTLE SISTER GOT EATEN.
CAPTAIN, LET'S BORROW THIS.
LAIOS
FALIN
NAMARI
MARCILLE
CHILCHUCK
TOSHIRO
WHO IN THE WORLD COULD...
A PARTY THAT MADE IT DOWN THIS FAR?
HM? THERE ARE NAMES WRITTEN HERE.


WHEEZE... WHEEZE...
GAKUN (BUCKLE)
DOU (WHALIMP)
とう
WHY!?
I DON'T KNOW.
YOU DON'T KNOW ...?
WHA... WHAT HAP-PENED !?
MY BODY JUST STOPPED WORKING.
WE HAVE TO HIDE SOME-WHERE FAST, OR ELSE...
SORRY! I'M GOING TO CARRY YOU.
TO (TIAD)
TO-OOO


!
SAAA CWEESH
I HEAR WATER.
HFF!
HFF!




ガチャン
GACHAN
CLANK
A SLEEPING BAG, A WATER SOURCE, AND EVEN A PLACE TO HIDE...
THIS IS TOO CONVENIENT. IT'S UNSETTLING.
BASA (RUSTLE)
THERE. EASY DOES IT.
YOU WISHED FOR THOSE THINGS...
HUH?
YOU WISHED, SO THE DUNGEON PROVIDED.
IT'S NOT A COINCI-DENCE.
DON'T WISH OFTEN.


AND THEY SAID TO "TAKE CARE" OF HIM... THERE'S SOME OTHER ISSUE HERE.
CAPTAIN MITHRUN.
IT'S ODD THAT A CASTER WOULDN'T KNOW HIS MAGIC WAS RUNNING LOW, THOUGH.
IT JUST LOOKS LIKE HE DRAINED HIS MAGIC.
IF YOU DON'T EXPLAIN IT TO ME, I CAN'T TEND TO YOUR NEEDS PROPERLY.
PLEASE TELL ME EVERYTHING YOU'RE HIDING.
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOUR BODY, ISN'T THERE.
NEVER MIND, JUST TELL ME.
...I WAS...
...YOU'RE AN INQUISITIVE ONE.
IN THE DUNGEON, THAT COULD PROVE FATAL.

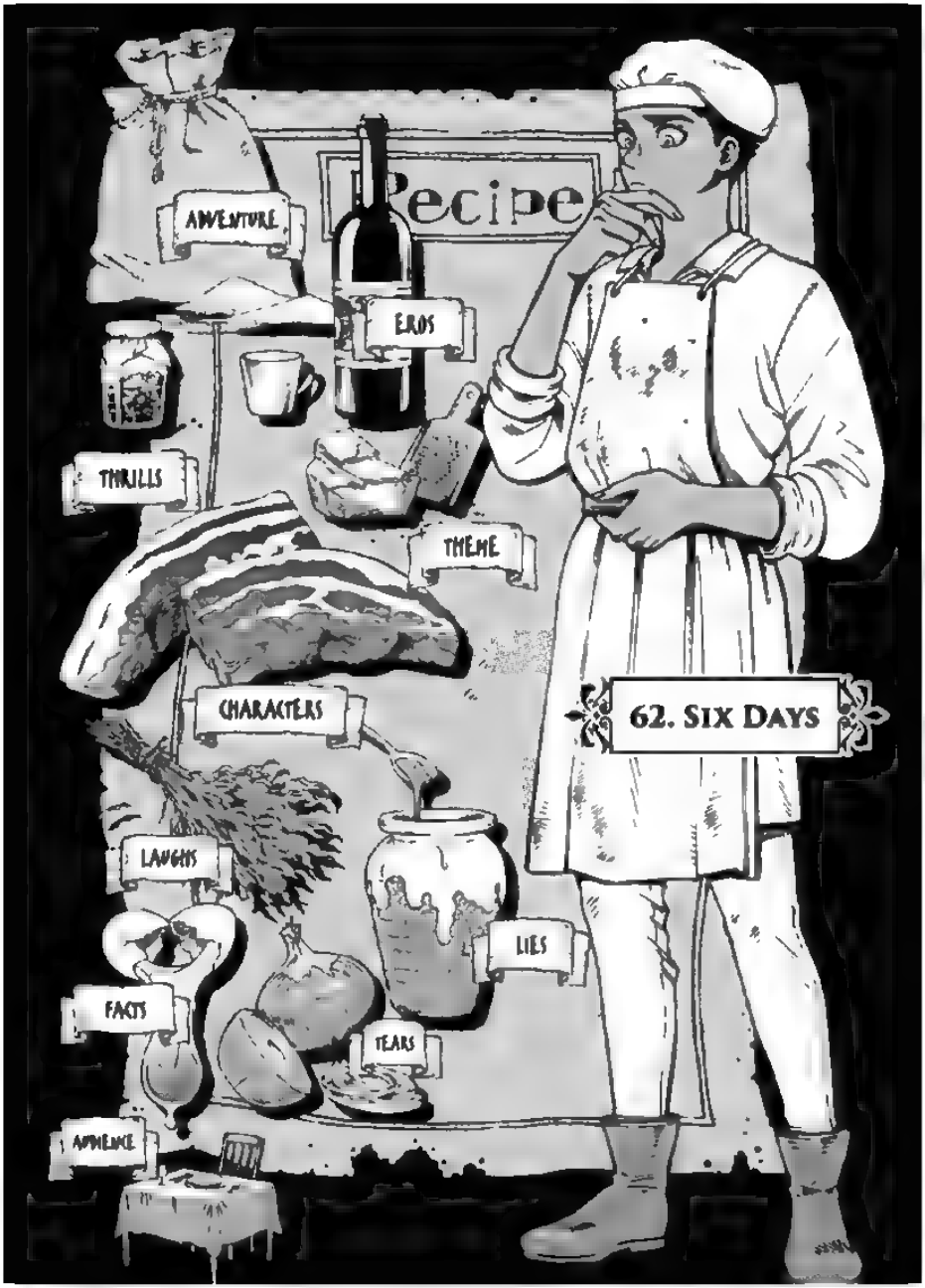

I WAS ONCE THE LORD OF A DUNGEON.
...MY COMPANIONS AND I ENTERED A DUNGEON NEAR A PORT TOWN ON A MISSION.
ABOUT FORTY YEARS AGO...
THE LORD OF A...
LIKE THE LUNATIC MAGI-CIAN...?
HUH?

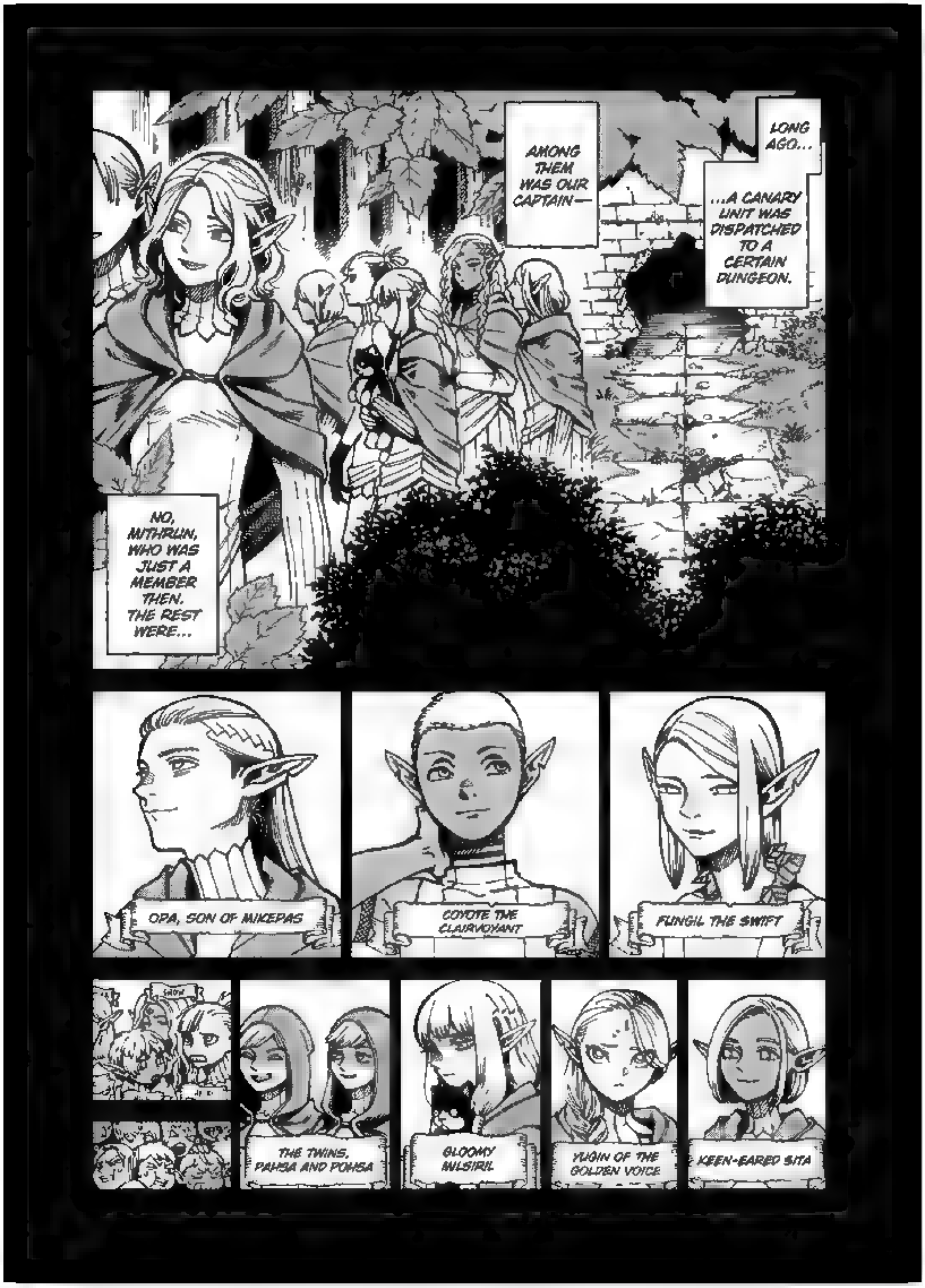

IT WAS A SMALL DUNGEON. NOT MUCH OF A THREAT.
THAT WAS WHAT WE ALL THOUGHT, BUT IN THE END—
WHAT ABOUT YOU? WHAT HAP-PENED?
A-AND THEN...?
IT WAS NO LITAYA, BUT THE DUNGEON ATE MANY OF MY UNIT'S MEMBERS.
IT DIDN'T...
...EAT ALL OF ME.
CHAPTER 61: THE END


ABOUT HIS PAST IN THE DUNGEON.
ABOUT ALL THAT HAD HAPPENED TO HIM—
IT DIDN'T... EAT ALL OF ME.
THEN HE BEGAN TO TELL ME.
EVERY-THING...

## CHAPTER 62


HIS STORY WAS TERRIBLY COMPLICATED.
HE DID TELL ME, BUT THERE WAS ONE PROBLEM.


Recipe
ADVENTURE
EROS
THRILLS
THEME
CHARACTERS
LAUGHS
LIES
FACTS
TEARS
APPEARANCE
62. SIX DAYS


LONG AGO...
...A CANARY UNIT WAS DISPATCHED TO A CERTAIN DUNGEON.
AMONG THEM WAS OUR CAPTAIN—
NO, MITHRUN, WHO WAS JUST A MEMBER THEN. THE REST WERE...
OPA, SON OF MIKEPAS
COYOTE THE CLAIRVOYANT
FLINGIL THE SWIFT
THE TWINS, PAHSA AND POHSA
GLOOMY WILSIRIL
YUGIN OF THE GOLDEN VOICE
KEEN-EARED SITA


...MOST PEOPLE WOULD PROBABLY NOD OFF RIGHT THERE.
I MEMORIZED THEM OUT OF PERSONAL INTEREST, BUT...
TOO MANY CHARAC-TERS!!
WAAAAH!
OTHERS
OTHERS
MITHRUN
WE SHOULD PARE IT DOWN.
IF THIS IS TRUE, IT SHOULD ABSOLUTELY BE RECORDED FOR POSTERITY.
BUT...
LOOKING OVER WHAT'S HERE.
THE FATE OF THOSE WHO BECOME LORD OF THE DUNGEON—
BUT BEFORE THAT...
CHIRA (GLANCE)
チラ
I SHOULD GET IT STRAIGHT IN MY MIND...
HELP WON'T ARRIVE FOR A WEEK. THERE'S TIME TO SPARE.
...THE STORY IS A TANGLED ONE, AND I DON'T REALLY UNDER-STAND IT.


I'LL TEACH YOU A SLEEP SPELL, SO...
NO, NO.
I TOLD YOU.
WITHOUT POTIONS OR SPELLS, I CAN'T.
CAPTAIN MITHRUN.
I THINK YOU SHOULD TRY TO SLEEP.
GET COMFORTABLE. BUNDLE UP IN THE BLANKET.
TAKE YOUR SHOES OFF, TOO.
THERE'S NO POINT.
NO.
SIMPLY CLOSING YOUR EYES AND LYING DOWN DOESN'T MAKE YOU SLEEPY?
THIS COULD NEVER MAKE ME SLEE—
GUI (SQUEEZE)
GUI
I'LL TRY TO LOOSEN THEM A BIT.
IT'LL IMPROVE YOUR CIRCULATION TOO.
WHOA, YOUR FEET ARE COLD.
YOUR MUSCLES ARE STIFF TOO.

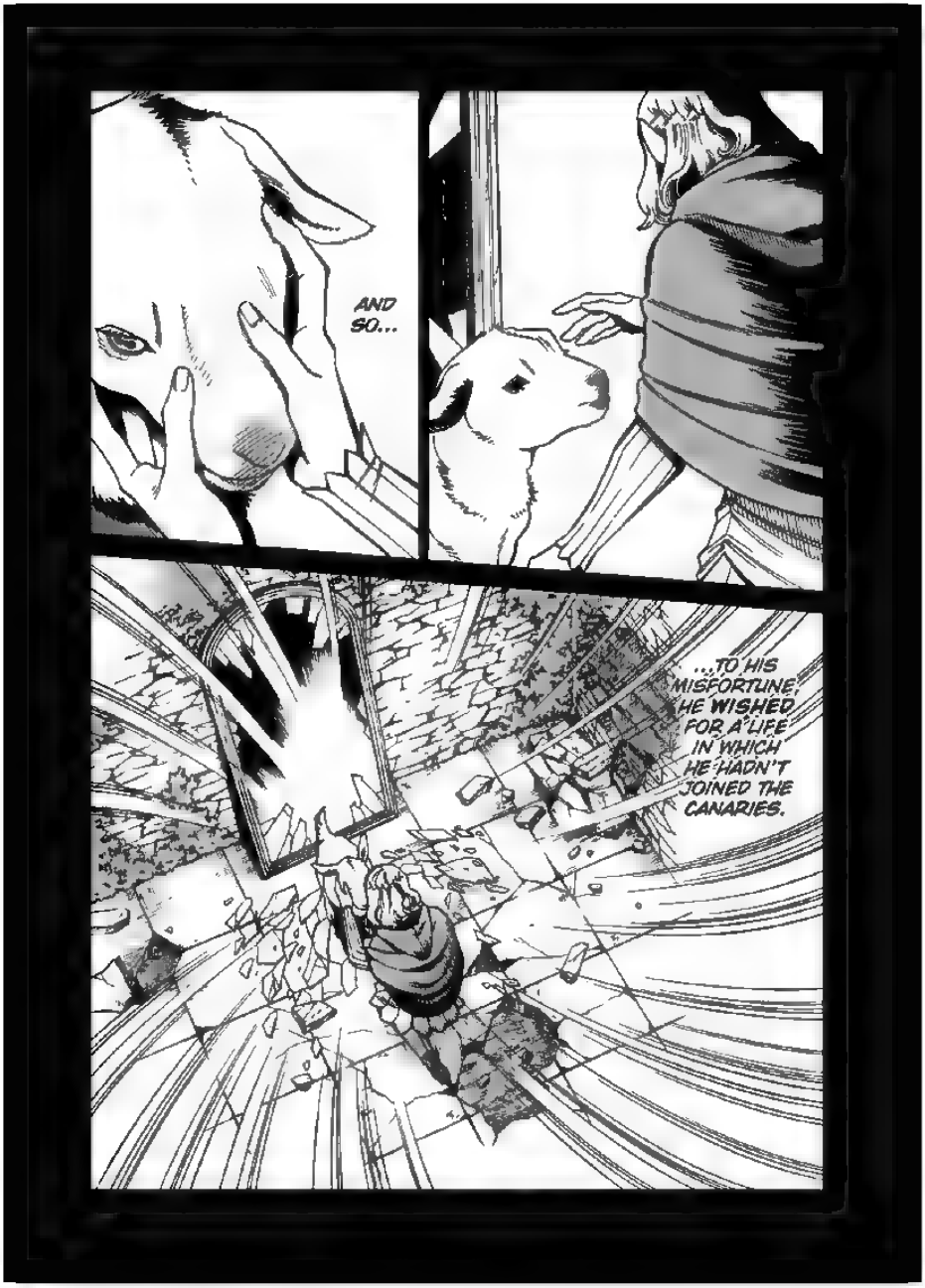

"THAT LOT"...
...MEANWHILE
TO THINK I'D GET ROPED INTO THIS FOR THE SAKE OF THAT LOT.
GOOD GRIEF
SNZZ...
IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE FROM THE WAY HE LOOKS NOW, BUT...
HE WAS FROM A GOOD FAMILY, BUT HE DIDN'T BOAST ABOUT IT.
UNBLEMISHED EARS, SILVER EYES...
THE OTHER UNIT MEMBERS MUST HAVE REALLY LIKED HIM.
BUT AFTER ALL THAT HAPPENED...
...HE WAS LEFT WITH A BODY THAT REGISTERS NO DESIRES AT ALL.
BACK THEN, HE WAS A PERFECT YOUTH.


HM?
IF HE DOESN'T FEEL THE NEED TO EAT OR SLEEP, THEN...
HE NEEDS PEOPLE TO CARE FOR HIM. HE CAN'T SURVIVE ON HIS OWN.
THE PROBLEM IS, HE DOES NEED THINGS. HE JUST DOESN'T NOTICE.
I DON'T REALLY NEED TO GO RIGHT NOW, SO IT'S FINE...
NOOOO, LET'S MAKE A TRIP ANYWAY!!
WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU WENT TO THE BATH-ROOM!!?
GAKU GAKU GAKU
EXCUSE ME!!
GAKU (SHAKE)
CAPTAIN, PLEASE WAKE UP!!
FOUR DAYS LEFT UNTIL RESCUE
THIS ISN'T "SEEING TO HIS NEEDS."
IT'S NURSING!


DAY THREE AFTER THE FALL
PA (POOF)
LAIOS, MEANWHILE
FURARI (TOTTER)
WE DRAINED HIS MAGIC AGAIN, HUH?
SZNNN...
BATTARI (FWUMP)
WHILE WE WERE TAKING THE SHEEP FROM THE TREE WE GOT SURROUNDED BY WOLVES. I WAS SURE WE WERE DEAD, BUT...
...WE MANAGED TO ESCAPE WITH HIS TELEPORTATION MAGIC.
REST WELL.
SWEET DREAMS.
I'D LIKE TO FEED HIM SOMETHING TASTY. BUT...
NOT HAVING DESIRES IS ROUGH.
THERE'S NOTHING HE WANTS TO EAT EITHER.


IT WAS A MAGIC MIRROR THAT SHOWED PEOPLE WHAT THEY WANTED AND STOLE THEIR HEARTS.
AS A RULE, HE IGNORED THEM, BUT THAT DAY WAS DIFFERENT
RETURNING TO THE TALE OF HIS PAST...
AT THE BOTTOM OF THE DUNGEON, HE FOUND A MIRROR.
HIS OLDER BROTHER AND HIS OWN BELOVED [redacted] TOGETHER.
IT WAS A LOVE HE'D LEFT BEHIND WHEN HE'D JOINED THE CANARIES IN HIS BROTHER'S PLACE.
THE SIGHT UPSET HIM TERRIBLY.
THAT'S PRETTY GOOD PLOTTING.
HA HA HA.
EVERYBODY LOVES A TRAGIC LOVE STORY.


IN HIS FURY, HE SMASHED THE MIRROR; AND THEN...
"IF YOU HADN'T ENLISTED, SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN YOURS.
"IT'S NOT TOO LATE. DON'T YOU WANT TO SEE THAT FUTURE?"
THE GOAT SPOKE TO HIM.
FROM THE WRECK OF THE MIRROR, A GOAT APPEARED.


AND SO...
...TO HIS MISFORTUNE, HE WISHED FOR A LIFE IN WHICH HE HADN'T JOINED THE CANARIES.


MUKUTSU (SHLIF)
OH.
GOOD MORNING.
PACHI (BLINK)
WELL, ERM...
I TRIED TO BUTCHER THE SHEEP...
...GOING ON WHAT I COULD REMEMBER FROM MY CHILDHOOD, BUT...
...IT WASN'T BUILT QUITE LIKE A REGULAR SHEEP.
MUTTON STEW, HM?
MY MOTHER USED TO MAKE IT FOR ME.
I DIDN'T HAVE MOST OF THE INGREDIENTS BUT...
IT WAS HARD TO TELL WHICH BITS TO USE.
WHERE DOES THIS END?
I COULDN'T REMOVE ITS ORGANS CLEANLY...
HUH!?
IT SPLIT..
...AND THE BONES WERE ODDLY SOFT.


IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE I HAD IT, SO I CAN'T WAIT.
I HOPE YOU LIKE IT.
ENERGY
PROTEIN
FAT
CARBS
CALCIUM
IRON
VITAMIN A
VITAMIN B2
VITAMIN C
TOPO (TRICKLE)
TOPO
TOPO
I'LL HAVE SOME.
BAROMETZ SOUP
Ingredients
Barometz 1


PAKURI (MUNCH)...
はぐ


THREE DAYS LEFT UNTIL RESCUE
IT TASTES LIKE CRAB.
IT DOES, DOESN'T IT.


DAY FOUR AFTER THE FALL
I HAVE A PRETTY GOOD SENSE OF DIRECTION...
...BUT THE MORE WE TRY TO GO BACK, THE STRANGER THE PLACES WE END UP.
THIS IS WEIRD...
HUFF!
HUFF!
LAIOS, MEANWHILE
ASSUMING SOMETHING DOESN'T EAT IT ALONG THE WAY.
THAT—
FAMILIAR
FLEKI
PLEKI'S FAMILIAR WILL REACH ME, NO MATTER WHAT.
WILL YOUR RESCUERS MANAGE TO FIND US IF WE RUN AROUND LIKE THIS!?
OR "US"!?
DID YOU MEAN "IT"!?

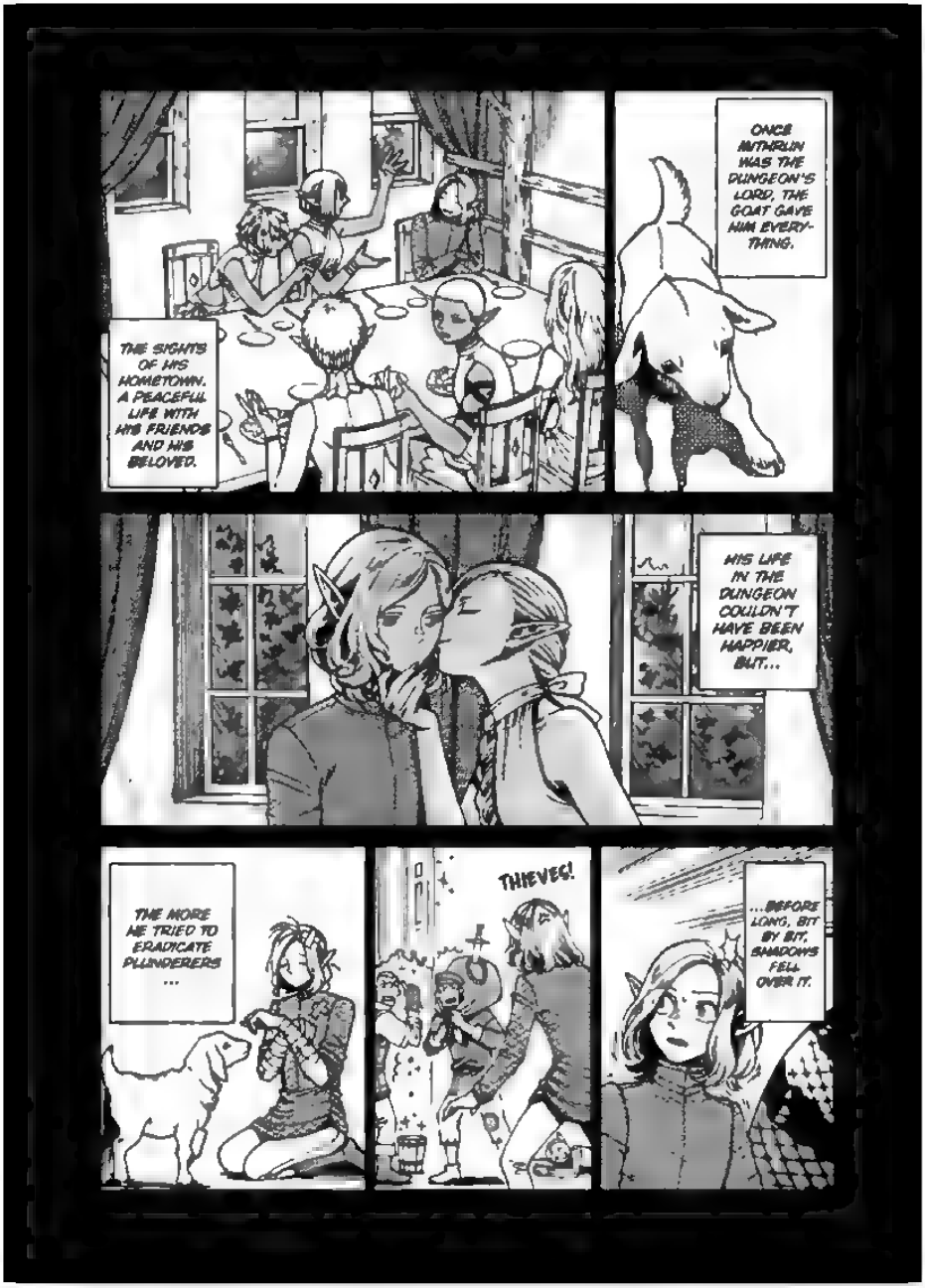

THIS WAY.


ゴゴゴゴ
ボワン
BOFUN
!!
URK!
ゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴ




CAPTAIN MITHRUN!
MUKURI (RISE)
DOSHA (FALLING)
IT MAY COME BACK.
NO HELP FOR THAT. LET'S MOVE ON.
WHAT WAS THAT SMOKE?
WHERE DID YOU SEND THE GRIFFIN?
I MEANT TO SEND IT INTO THE WALL, BUT I MISSED.
"MOVE ON"...?
I COMPLETELY LOST TRACK OF DIRECTION WHILE WE WERE RUNNING.
THERE IS NO DIRECTION IN PLACES LIKE THIS.


カコン
KAKON (KATUNO)
コン
KON (TAP)
コン
KON (TAP)
ヨタ
YOTA
ヨタ
YOTA (SWAY)
ズ
ZU
ズ
ZU
ズ
ZU
ズ
ZU (RUMBLE)
ズ
ZU
HUH!?
IF I BUILT A PLACE LIKE THIS, I'D MAKE SURE TO ADD A WAY OUT.
NO BUT...
YOU KNEW ABOUT THIS PASSAGE?
...IS A RELIC FROM HIS TIME AS LORD OF THE DUNGEON.
THAT SENSE OF DIREC-TION...
I SEE...


THE SIGHTS OF HIS HOMETOWN. A PEACEFUL LIFE WITH HIS FRIENDS AND HIS BELOVED.
ONCE MITHRUN WAS THE DUNGEON'S LORD, THE GOAT GAVE HIM EVERY-THING.
HIS LIFE IN THE DUNGEON COULDN'T HAVE BEEN HAPPIER, BUT...
THE MORE HE TRIED TO ERADICATE PLUNDERERS ...
THIEVES!
...BEFORE LONG, BIT BY BIT, SHADOWS FELL OVER IT.


...AND THE MORE COMPLI-CATED ITS STRUCTURE BECAME.
...THE MORE MONSTERS RAN RAMPANT IN THE DUNGEON...
LITTLE BY LITTLE, HIS ENERGY DRAINED AWAY TOO.
...WHILE HIS COM-PANIONS DISAP-PEARED, ONE BY ONE.
WITH EACH WISH IT GRANTED, THE GOAT GREW STRON-GER...


MUNZU (SPLASH)
ムンズ
GOAT...


GU
MOGU
DARA
DOROO
MOGU
MOGU
ITA
(FLAW)
STOP!
WHAT EXACTLY ...
...ARE YOU EATING?
BATA
(PUDGE)
GABU
(CHOMP)
GOKU
(GULP)
MUM
WHAT ARE YOU DO—
STOP!!


NUCHA (SQUELCH)
ぬちゃ
JGH!
IT'S DEVOURED ALL HIS DESIRES.
IF HE DOESN'T EVEN WANT TO SURVIVE, HE WON'T LAST LONG.
WHAT DO WE DO?
THIS ONE'S WITHRUN.
HE'S STILL BREATHING.
?
WE'LL PUT HIM OUT OF HIS—


IT HADN'T EATEN ENOUGH TO BUILD UP SUFFICIENT POWER, APPARENTLY.
THE DEMON, YOU MEAN?
IT VANISHED.
BUTSU
BUTSU (MUTTER)
H...
KILL...
WHERE IS THE GOAT...?
KILL IT...
I'LL KILL...
...IT...
BUTSU
BUTSU
BUTS...
I SEE.
SO IT DIDN'T EAT YOUR DESIRE FOR REVENGE.
FROM NOW ON, NO DOUBT HE'LL EAT FOOD HE DOESN'T WANT TO EAT...
...AND LIVE A LIFE HE DOESN'T WANT TO LIVE, SIMPLY SO HE CAN KILL THAT DEMON.
DON'T WORRY.
TEND TO HIS NEEDS.
HUH!?
YOU'RE SURE?


—HOW'S THAT?
THE DETAILS ARE TOTALLY DIFFERENT.
I EDITED THOSE TO MAKE IT A BIT EASIER TO UNDER-STAND.
IT'S WAY TOO COMPLI-CATED.
I TRIED TO ORGANIZE YOUR STORY IN MY OWN WAY.
I GOT THE GIST OF IT, DIDN'T I?
THERE'S EGGSHELL IN IT.
ニンヨリ
JYORI (CRUNCH)
I DIDN'T MEAN THE FOOD.
HUH?
WHO ISN'T?
EVEN IF I EXPLAINED HOW ELF SOCIETY IS STRUCTURED, I DOUBT HE'D LISTEN...
...AND HE'S PROBABLY NOT ABLE TO UNDERSTAND COMPLEX RE-ATION-SHIPS.


THERE'S SOMEONE YOU WANT TO TELL THAT STORY TO.
!
HE'S PROBABLY THE ONE WHO'S CLOSEST TO CAPTURING THE DUNGEON RIGHT NOW.
WHAT SORT OF FELLOW IS HE?
WHAT DOES HE WANT FROM THE DUNGEON?
I DOUBT HE WOULD.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY HE'S ABLE TO MAKE FOR ITS HEART.
NO T
(NOT CROSS)
IF HE HEARD THAT STORY, WOULD HE ABANDON HIS QUEST?
.....
BECAUSE THE DUNGEON'S POWER, THE DEMON...
...BECKONS THOSE WHO HAVE STRONG DESIRES.


THESE "DEMONS" YOU KEEP MENTIONING ...
YOU MEAN THE KIND THAT SHOW UP IN STORIES?
LIKE THESE?
THEY'RE SIMILAR.
LONG AGO, IN THEIR QUEST FOR A PERPETUAL MOTION MACHINE...
...THE ANCIENTS CREATED A GATE TO A DIFFERENT DIMENSION, WHERE "INFINITY" EXISTED.
THEY MANAGED TO DRAW INFINITE POWER THROUGH THE GATE...
...BUT THEY ALSO ATTRACTED CREATURES FROM THE OTHER SIDE.
THOSE PEOPLE WHO HAD ALL THEIR DESIRES CONSUMED WASTED AWAY AND DIED.
DEMONS ARE POWERLESS, BUT EATING HUMAN DESIRES GIVES THEM STRENGTH.
THE DEMONS LIKED MORTALS' DESIRES.
I WANT TO FLY.
GOOD IDEA.
THOSE ARE THE DEMONS.


...THEY BUILT DUNGEONS.
??
?
THIS KEPT THE DEMONS FROM REACHING THE SURFACE EASILY.
THIS FRIGHTENED THE ANCIENTS.
TO PREVENT THE DEMONS FROM USING THE GATE AT WILL...
SO ANCIENT MAGIC IS A RITUAL TO SUMMON DEMONS...?
WHY DO THE ELVES KEEP THAT A SECRET?
BECAUSE IT WOULDN'T STOP ANYONE.
IT'S TRUE THAT ANY DEMON YOU MEET WILL GRANT ANY WISH.
IF THOSE IN POWER DISCOVERED THAT, WE'D HAVE TROUBLE.
IN THE END, THE ANCIENTS KEPT GIVING THE DEMONS THEIR DESIRES, AND IT DESTROYED THEM.
THOSE WHOSE DESIRES ARE PARTICULARLY STRONG ARE MADE LORDS OF THE DUNGEON.
THE DEMONS GRANT THEIR WISHES, STIRRING UP EVEN STRONGER DESIRES.
THE MOMENT THEY'VE EATEN ENOUGH AND HAVE ENOUGH POWER...
NOW, THE DEMONS USE VARIOUS METHODS ...
...TO DRAW AS MANY PEOPLE AS THEY CAN INTO THEIR DUNGEONS.

...THEY'LL CRACK THE SHELL OF THEIR DUNGEON AND EMERGE.

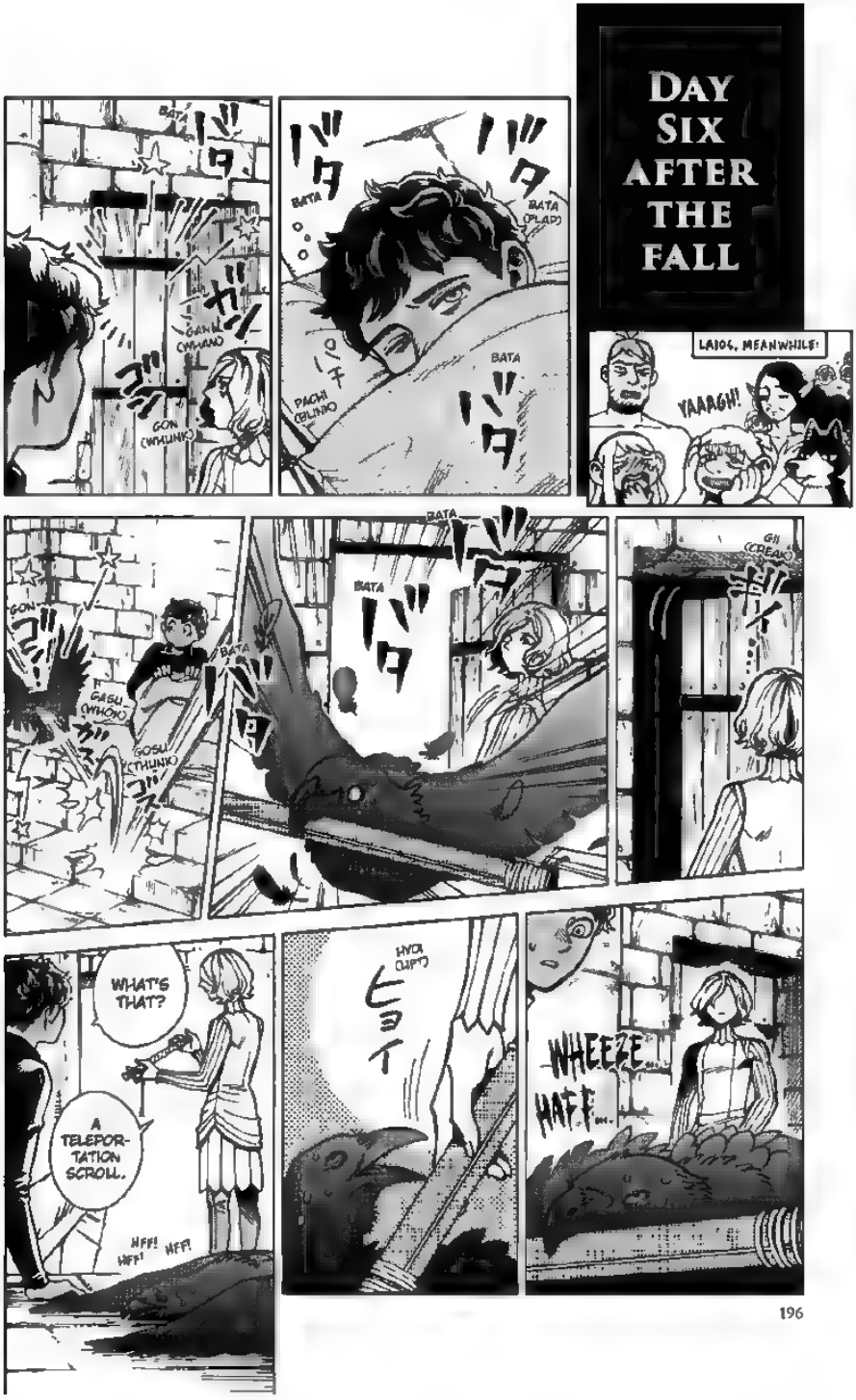



ELGAL
ETERNITY
HAPPINESS
ELGAL
ALL
CITIZEN
PROSPERITY
DELGA
ELIMINATE
TRAITORS
ELGAL UNCHANGING
Epic
WHEN SOMEONE WITH COMPLICATED DESIRES LIKE SISSEL'S BECOMES A LORD, THINGS GET TRICKY.
SO? WHAT SORT OF FELLOW IS HE?
Common
PHYSICAL DESIRES
IRONICALLY, DESIRES FOR WEALTH AND FAME AREN'T MUCH OF A THREAT.
THEY'RE TOO ORDINARY AND NOT FILLING.
Rare
SEEKING APPROVAL
DID YOU KNOW THIS, KABRU?
...HE...
IN ADDITION TO THAT...
I THINK THAT'S THE MAIN REASON, BUT...
...HE WANTS TO SAVE HIS SISTER.


AND IT REEKS LIKE YOU WOULDN'T BELI
RED DRAGON AMBERGRIS IS ABOUT THIS BIG!
HE JUST LOVES MONSTERS.
I THINK WE SHOULD KILL HIM BEFORE THAT HAPPENS.
IF HE BECAME LORD OF THE DUNGEON...
TWO DAYS LEFT UNTIL RESCUE


HRMM...
DAY FIVE AFTER THE FALL
LAIOS, MEANWHILE
I DON'T THINK IT'S JUST THAT I'M WEAK.
I CAN FEEL THAT THERE'S MAGIC RUNNING THROUGH IT.
THERE MUST BE SOME SORT OF MECHA-NISM ..
IT'S NOT BUDGING.
IF WE DON'T DO ANYTHING, WILL WE STAY LIKE THIS FOREVER?
...BUT ELF BODIES ARE INTEREST-ING.
WHEN I WOKE UP AS A DIFFERENT SPECIES, I FELT COMPLETE..Y HOPELESS. .
STILL.


IF WE GET RID OF THE SPORES BEFORE THE MUSHROOMS GROW, WE'LL BE FINE.
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO RIGHT AWA—
OH! BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE ANY DESIRE TO NOT TURN INTO A MUSHROOM?
MAN. THIS IS A PAIN.
NO. BEFORE LONG, WE'LL SPROUT MUSHROOMS ALL OVER AND LOSE OUR SENSE OF SELF.
ZAN (TA-DAA)
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT!?
LET'S RUB OURSELVES DOWN.
GEEZ, THAT'S A STURDY BACK.
ONE DAY LEFT UNTIL RESCUE
WHY DID YOU LIE?
SUUU (SHOOP)
MOZO (SQUIRM)
MOZO
OKAY! DID YOU FORGET ANY-WHERE!?
NO.


DAY SIX AFTER THE FALL
LAIOS, MEANWHILE:
YAAAGH!
BATA
BATA (SLAP)
PACHI (SLINK)
GAHN (WHANG)
GON (WHUNK)
GASU (WHOK)
GOSU (THUNK)
GU (CREAK)
HYOI (LIFT)
WHAT'S THAT?
A TELEPORTATION SCROLL.
HFF! HFF! HFF!
WHEEZE...
HAFF...


PETASHI (STICK)
PA (POOF)
WAH!
DID HE FEED YOU PROPERLY?
HEY, HANDSOME!
YOUR HAIR LOOKS GLOSSIER THAN USUAL.
WHOA. CAPTAIN.
THAT WAS CLOSE.
LYCION, HUH?
5 MIN. LATER
WAIT FIVE MINUTES, THEN LINK BACK UP.
EXCUSE ME. I'M CLOSING THIS FOR A BIT.
PISHA (SWISH)
PATTADOL SNAPPED AND CALLED THE GROUP THAT WAS ON STANDBY ASHORE.
SO THINGS GOT A BIT CRAZY...
WHAT'S THE NOISE ABOUT?
OH!
CAN I LIE DOWN?


COME HERE, COME ON.
SHOW ME THAT MY COMPANIONS ARE SAFE.
FIRST!
CAPTAIN MITHRUN!
OH, THANK GOOD-NESS...!
I GUESS THEY REALLY HAVE HAD THEIR HANDS FULL.
NOT THE OTHERS.
SO IT WAS THEM.
BRING THEM HERE.
GROW UP.
WHO THE HE—
ALL RIGHT, CAPTAIN. COME OVER.


!?
GO CRONO
GO GET IT!
LAIOS, MEANWHILE:
WAS THAT—
SHUT UP.
B-BEG PARDON.


LAIOS IS NEARBY...
DID YOU JUST HEAR ANOTHER BELL?
LAIOS?
CAPTAIN MITHRUN?
HURRY AND COME HERE.
IS THAT THE HUMAN YOU TOLD ME ABOUT?
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?


SO WHEN I FOUND OUT HE WAS JUST A MONSTER FANATIC, I WAS RELIEVED.
MONEY, FAME, OTHER PEOPLE...
NONE OF IT SEEMED TO INTEREST HIM. IT WAS EERIE.
I FIRST TOOK AN INTEREST IN HIM...
...BECAUSE I COULDN'T TELL WHAT HE'D BECOME AN ADVENTURER TO DO.
AN AWFUL FEELING.
BUT NOW, I HAVE...
...A REALLY BAD FEELING.
I WANT TO TALK TO LAIOS ONE MORE TIME.
I'D LIKE TO STAY DOWN HERE AND KEEP EXPLORING.


ZA (SHF)
HUH?
RIGHT.
THEN LET'S DO THAT.
MAN...
GET UP
WE'RE GOING AFTER THE CAPTAIN!
HURRY AND GET READY!
OH, FOR THE LOVE OF—!
STOP!
W-WAIT, CAPTAIN!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING!?
CAPTAIN, PLEASE WAIT!

*To be continued...*


A PLANT THAT GROWS WHERE THERE'S LOTS OF MAGIC.
IT RESEMBLES A GYMNOSPERM, BUT IT BEARS FRUIT THAT LOOK LIKE SHEEP.
IS THIS A MONSTER?
IT'S A BARO-METZ.
MISC. MONSTER TALES
BAROMETZ
9
THERE ARE MEAT EATERS WHO SAY IT'S A PLANT AND WON'T EAT IT.
THERE ARE VEGETARIANS WHO CONTEND IT'S AN ANIMAL, SO THEY WON'T EAT IT
THAT DEPENDS ON HOW YOU FEEL.
HOW YOU FEEL?
WHEN CUT FROM THE STALK, THE FRUIT STARTS ROTTING AT ONCE, SO IT DOESN'T MAKE GOOD TRAVEL RATIONS.
IT SPREADS ITS SEEDS BY GETTING CARNIVORES TO EAT ITS FRUIT.
DID YOU MEMORIZE THAT?
SO IT IS A MONSTER?
I DIDN'T SAY IT WASN'T A M—
WELL, I'LL EAT ANYTHING AS LONG AS IT'S NOT A MONSTER.
SINCE IT'S NOT A [redacted]
IN OTHER WORDS, NOBODY EATS IT.
SOME SAY IT'S UNCLEAR WHETHER IT'S A MONSTER, PLANT OR ANIMAL, SO THEY WON'T EAT IT.


HM?
BOSO (MRMR)
BOSO
SNRT! SNRF!
DULLAHAN
I'LL GET IT
IT MIGHT BE THEM!
DID YOU JUST HEAR SOME-THING?
TON
I KNOW THEY WERE NEAR US BACK THEN.
WHERE ON EARTH DID LAIOS'S GROUP GO?
SOLICI-TOR.
(OF DEATH)
WHAT WAS IT?
(GACHA)
(GACHAKO)
ZUBA (SKASH)
WHY I?
HUFF! HAFF!
WHEEZE! WHEEZE!
.....


THE OTHERS WERE ALL SKILLED.
CHR-CHUCK, JUST STARTING OUT
FRANKLY, I HAD NOTHING TO DO.
WAY BACK WHEN, I GOT SCOUTED BY A SUCCUBUS HUNTING PARTY
THEIR TERMS WERE EXCELLENT, SO I CHEERFULLY SIGNED ON.
HUH.
SUCCUBUS
DESTROYED FOR THE SECRETION THEY USE AS A WEAPON. THAT'S IRONIC.
HMM.
I GUESS THE HUMANS WERE ONE STEP AHEAD OF THEM.
ONLY THEY'VE BEEN OVERHUNTED LATELY, SO THERE AREN'T AS MANY.
YOU USED TO BE ABLE TO EARN MORE.
DOES HUNTING SUCCUBI REALLY PAY THAT MUCH?
YEAH, SURE.
HEY, WHERE DID THAT HALF-FOOT GO?
HE'S NOT HERE.
WHILE WE CAMPED, I PRETENDED TO SLEEP, THEN SLIPPED OUT.
JUST THEN, I GOT A BAD FEELING ALL OF A SUDDEN.


I FINALLY GOT IT.
THE SUCCUBI WERE GETTING ADVENTURERS WHO WANTED THEIR SECRETIONS TO KEEP THEM FED WITH OTHER ADVENTURERS!
HIGO
SO WE HUNT WITHOUT BAIT THIS TIME?
NO.
UNLESS WE FEED THEM AND LET THEM BREED, THE SUCCUBI WILL DIE OUT.
I WOULDN'T MIND GIVING THEM A LITTLE LIFE FORCE IF THOSE SECRETIONS WERE LESS DAMAGING.
REALLY, THOUGH..
THAT ITCH IS AWFUL!
WHOA...
...AND I FORMED A UNION TO KEEP HALF-FOOTS FROM BEING CONSIDERED DISPOSABLE.
—EVER SINCE THEN, I'VE ONLY TAKEN JOBS THAT PAID UP FRONT...
SO THE SUCCUBI WERE ONE STEP AHEAD OF THEM.
IN OTHER WORDS, PEOPLE ARE YET ANOTHER STEP AHEAD.
THIS ISN'T THAT SORT OF CONTEST.
OUR BODY GOES OUT OF ITS WAY TO MAKE US ITCH SO THAT WE'LL AVOID GETTING STUNG BY SUCCUBI.
I THINK THAT'S HOW WE PROTECT OURSELVES.
THEN WE WOULD ALL GO EXTINCT...
IF IT WEREN'T FOR THAT, EVERYBODY WOULD LINE UP TO GET STUNG.

# 9

# DELICIOUS IN DUNGEON

## RYOKO KUI

**Translation: Taylor Engel** **Lettering: Abigail Blackman**

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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Delicious in Dungeon
RYOKO KUI
Curry Rice


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DUNGEON
RYOKO KUI
Curry Rice

# Delicious in Dungeon



Ryoko Kui

10

# Delicious in Dungeon

10

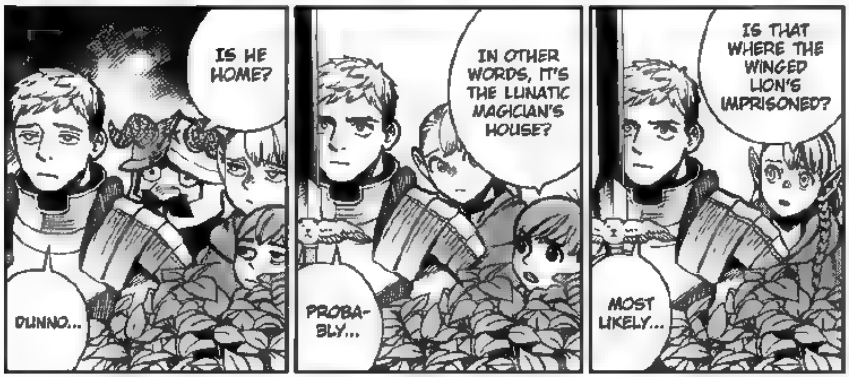
*Contents*

*Chapter 63* **CONFIT** — 005
*Chapter 64* **RABBITS -1-** — 035
*Chapter 65* **RABBITS -2-** — 059
*Chapter 66* **CURRY -1-** — 095
*Chapter 67* **CURRY -2-** — 123
*Chapter 68* **SISSEL -1-** — 155
*Chapter 69* **SISSEL -2-** — 191
*Bonus* **MISCELLANEOUS MONSTER TALES -10-** — 222




63. Confit




IS HE HOME?
DUNNO...
IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN'S HOUSE?
PROBA-BLY...
IS THAT WHERE THE WINGED LION'S IMPRISONED?
MOST LIKELY...


GLI (TUG)
HMM...

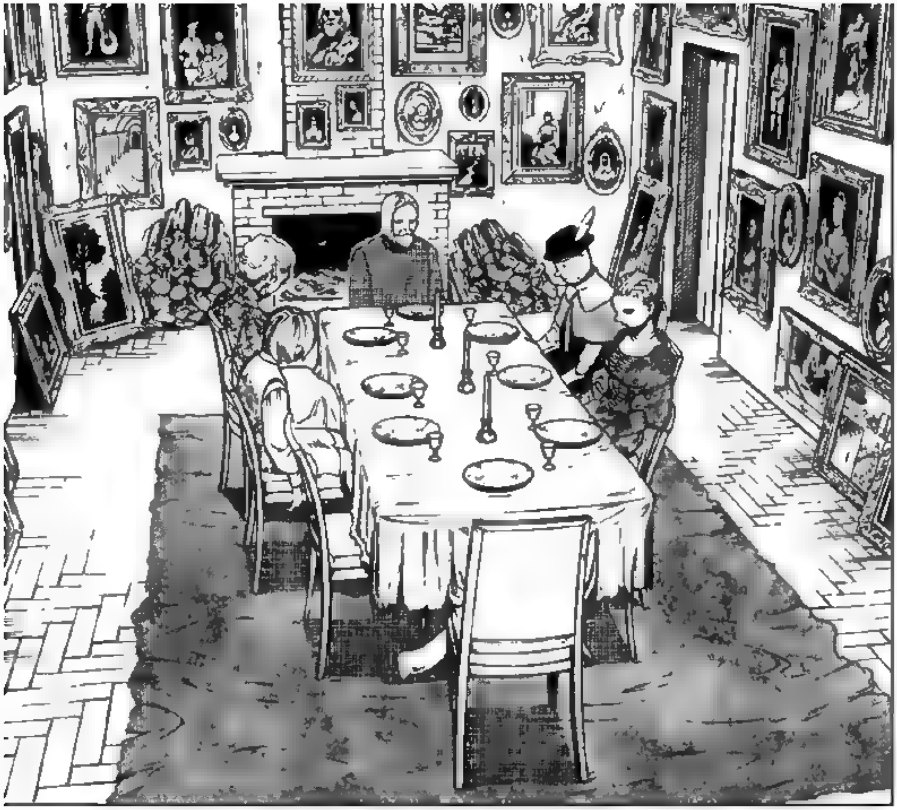

I REALLY DON'T WANT TO RUN INTO THAT MAGICIAN.
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
COULD YOU BE ANY MORE VAGUE?
SHOULD WE WAIT AND WATCH FOR A WHILE?


KEN-SUKE... THAT IS...
PHIIN (STRETCH)
...THE WINGED LION SEEMS TO BE TELLING US TO GO IN.
GUI
GUI
WELL, LET'S GO. CAREFULLY, THOUGH.
COME ON, IZUTSUMI.
SHHH (SILENCE)
IT'S GREAT THAT IT LED US HERE...
...BUT WE CAN'T REALLY COMMUNI-CATE...
THAT MEANS IT'S SAFE, RIGHT?
HOLD IT.
LOOK AT THAT. .


A MON-STER?
PROB-ABLY.
A GUARD... BIRD, HUH?
I'D LIKE TO KILL IT BEFORE IT NOTICES US.
SURE, BUT I'M NOT REAL CONFI-DENT.
HUH? ME?
CHILCHUCK, WOULD YOU DO IT?
OKAY...!
QUIETLY, RIGHT?
GIRI (CREAK)


YES!
OOOH, GOOD SHOT!
TON CTHUNK
WE'LL CHECK ON OUR WAY BACK.
WHAT IS IT, EXACTLY?
ZLIBE (WHUMP)
IT'S NOT LOCKED...


... ...
THAT WOULD STARTLE ANYBODY.
WOW...
YIKES.
THIS PLACE IS CREEPY.
WATCH OUT FOR BROKEN GLASS.
ZUBE (WHAM)
WAHH!!!
そ?
SO (PEEK)



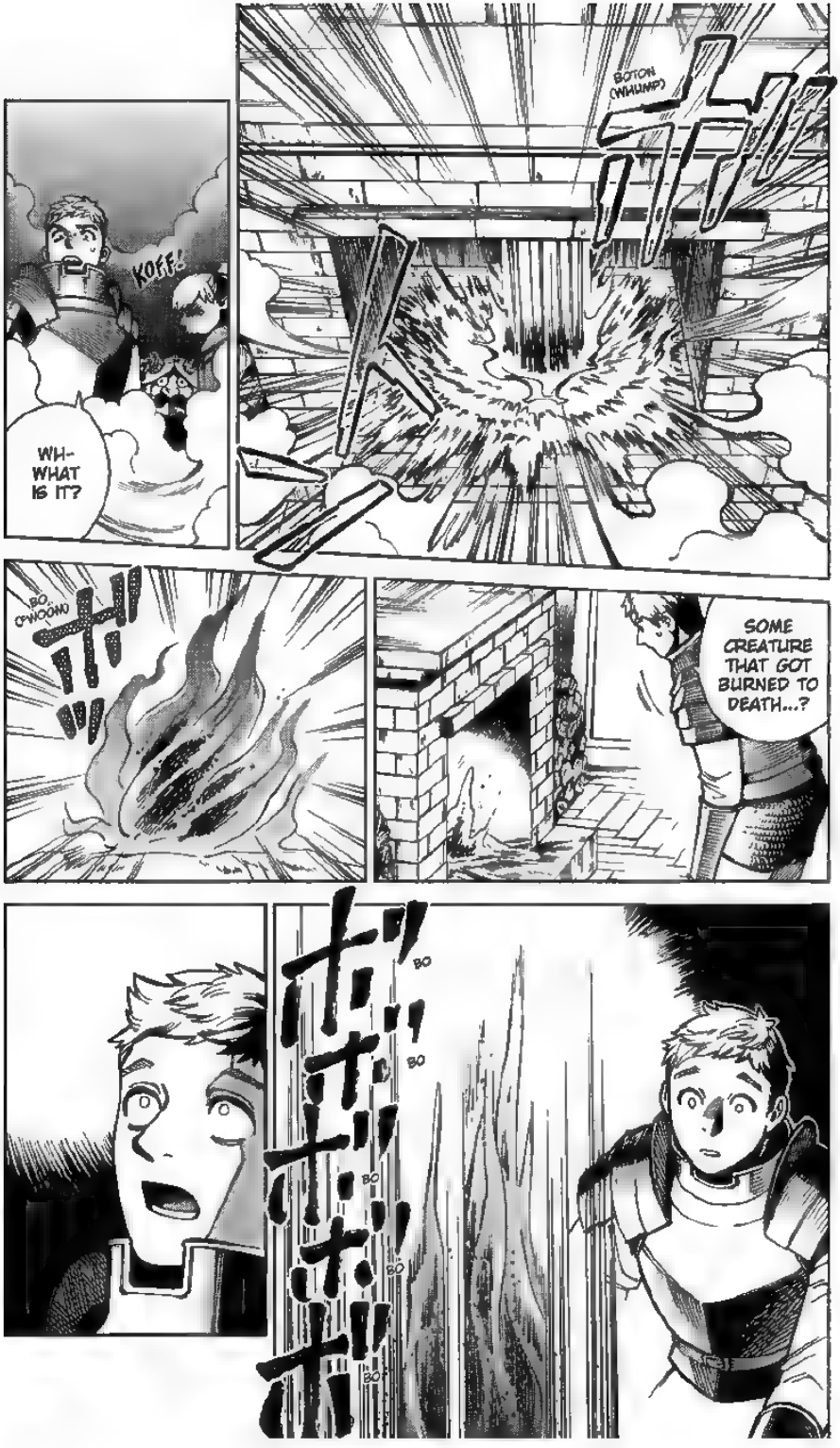

URK...
EEP...
WHAT ARE THOSE? DOLLS?


HWOO...
THEY'RE ALIVE...
YAAD!
YAAD? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
HUH? YAAD!?
HIS SOUL MAY HAVE BEEN EXTRACTED.
HIS SOUL !?
IS HE SLEEPING?
HE'S...

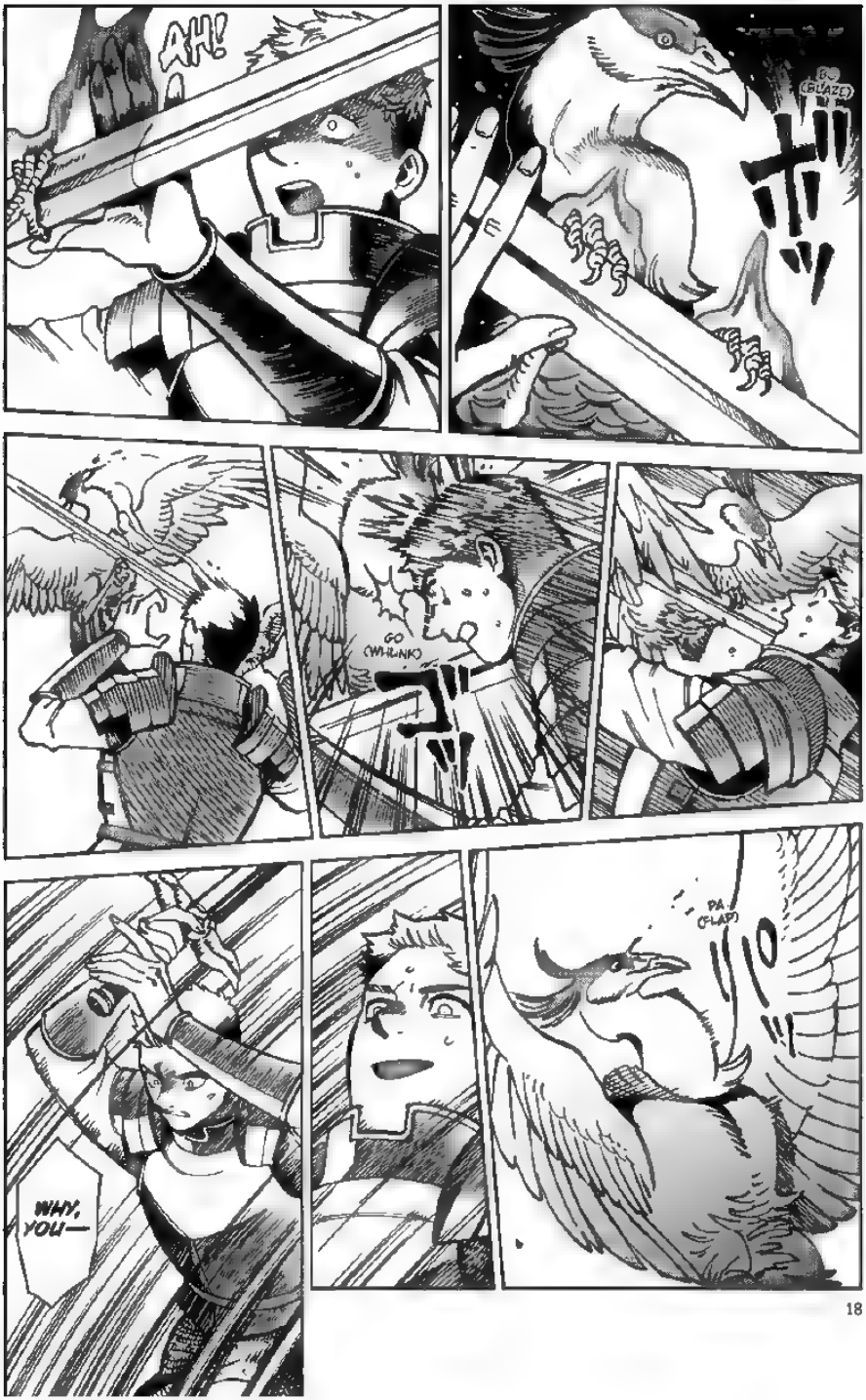

YOU MEAN, THEY'RE ALL...?
HE'S A LUNATIC, ALL RIGHT.
LET'S FIND THE LION, FAST.
そわっ
(SHIVER)
EVERYBODY BE CAREFUL OF WHAT'S AROUND YOU.
OKAAAY.
THESE ARE ALL LIVING PICTURES, AREN'T THEY.
GRR...
THE PICTURE JERKS ARE WATCHING US.
DON'T GO NEAR THEM, IZUTSUMI.
BIKU (FLINCH)


HMM...


...IT BEING "IMPRISONED" PROBABLY DOESN'T MEAN WHAT WE'RE VISUALIZING.
YOU KNOW...
LIKE-THIS.
FROM A BRIEF ONCE-OVER...
...THERE ISN'T ANY SIGN OF THE LION.
.....
IS SHE RIGHT, KENSUKE?
...
WHAT'S THAT NOISE?
HEY.
IN THAT CASE, HOW DO WE—
LIKE A MIRROR, A CRYSTAL, A BOOK, OR A SCROLL.
IT MAY BE SEALED INSIDE SOMETHING.
GOTO
GOTON
GASA (WHOK)
KON (TINK)
GASA (CRSTL)
GOTO (THUD)
IT'S IN THE CHIMNEY.
KATA (CLATTER)
KOTO (CLUNK)


KOFF!
WH-WHAT IS IT?
BOTOH (WHUMP)
BO (WHOOMP)
SOME CREATURE THAT GOT BURNED TO DEATH...?
BO
BO
BO
BO
BOF


GET YAAD AND THE OTHERS TO SAFETY.
DID IT COME BACK TO LIFE?
FROM THE FLAMES ..
TH-THAT'S...
THIS BIRD MONSTER WE KILLED OUTSIDE!?
CAW (CLANG)


AH!
(BLAZE)
GO
(WHLINK)
WHY, YOU—
PA
(FLAP)


DON (SHUNK)


NGH...
BERON (PEEL)


GARAN (CLANG)


BOTON (PLOP)


NO.
THERE'S NO TIME.
LAIOS, ARE YOU OKAY!?
I'LL HEAL THOSE—
BO (FWOOM)
BO
BO
BO
BO (FLARE)
IT BURNS ITS OLD BODY AND RISES FROM THE FLAMES, REBORN...
THERE'S ONLY ONE MONSTER THAT DOES THAT.
IT'S ON FIRE AGAIN.


THE PHOENIX!
WHAT AWFUL HEAT!
WE CAN'T EVEN GET NEAR IT...
GOOC OWHOOSH
ACK!
LET'S FALL BACK FOR NOW.
THE FIRE'S GOING TO SPREAD!
I CAN'T THINK OF ONE.
DOESN'T IT HAVE A WEAKNESS!?
LIKE IT HATES GARLIC, OR—
THAT'S IT!
AH!
YAAD...


BUON (FLING)
YAAD, I'M SORRY!!
AAAAGH!!
PUCHI (SQUISH)
BAAAH (WHAM)
OH!
LAW?
YES! WHICH MEANS THAT LAW SHOULD APPLY!
EVEN IF HIS SOUL ISN'T THERE, THAT'S ACTUALLY YAAD!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?


WHEW.
THE HEAT DIED DOWN...
THIS DUNGEON'S LAW...
...DICTATES THAT NO MONSTER...
...CAN HARM THE PEOPLE OF THE GOLDEN COUNTRY.
SHHHH (SILENCE)
WELL...
...I'D LIKE TO LOOK FOR THE WINGED LION...
...BUT I'M KIND OF SCARED TO LEAVE IT LIKE THIS.
THAT SAID, WE CAN'T KILL IT...
PIKU! (TWITCH)
PIKU!
THANKS TO YAAD, IT CAN'T WRAP ITSELF IN FLAMES.
...OF COURSE! BY THE RULES IN HERE...
...ANYTHING THAT'S FULLY DIGESTED BY ANOTHER CREATURE LOSES ITS RIGHT TO COME BACK TO LIFE.
PON (PAT)


HOW SHOULD I COOK THIS?
IF I BRING IT NEAR FIRE, IT MAY RESURRECT.
IT'S A REAL HEAD-SCRATCH-ER...
HMM...
STILL...
THIS WAS YOUR IDEA, NOT MINE, OKAY?
IT LOOKS AS IF IT'S BEEN NEGLECTED FOR CENTURIES.
WASHING THE DISHES.
KACHA
KACHA CLUNK
I CAN'T COOK IN A KITCHEN LIKE THIS.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SENSHI?


...CLEANING MAY BE THE ONLY WAY TO FIND THE WINGED LION.
I MEAN, WE'LL HAVE TO EXAMINE EVERY-THING...
...AND LOOK FOR THE LION'S HIDDEN SEAL ON EACH AND EVERY ITEM.
SERI-OUSLY?
I'M PRETTY SURE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN PLACES LIKE THIS...
...GO BALLISTIC IF RANDOM STRANGERS TRY AND CLEAN THEM UP.
THAT'S FINE.
HE'S ALREADY FURIOUS WITH US.
.....
SO ARE WE DOING THIS?
YES!
THEN I'LL MAKE YOU SOMETHING GOOD
A PHOENIX-FEATHER DUSTER!
THAT IS GOOD!

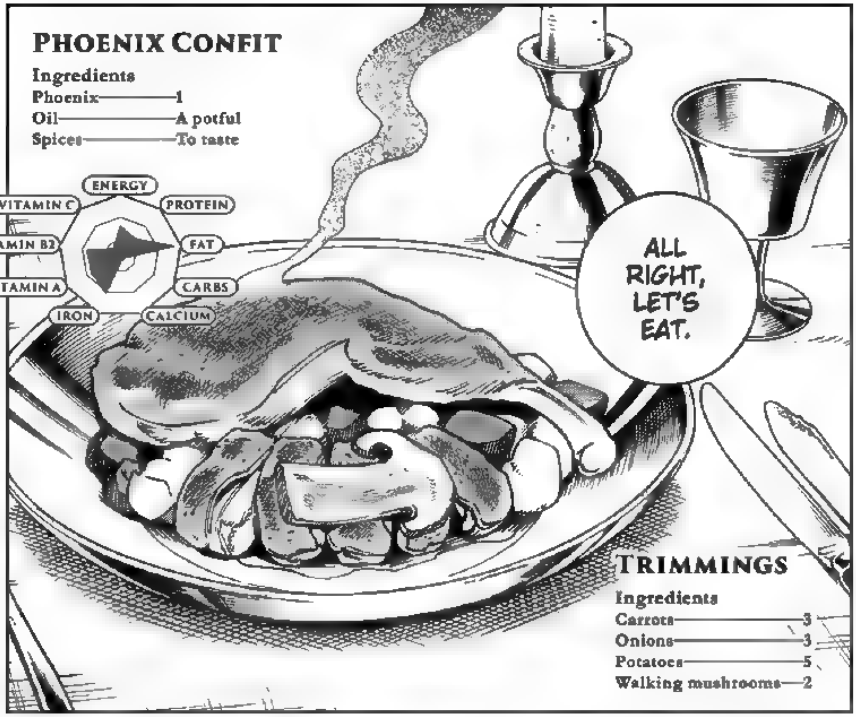

HE DOESN'T SEEM TO CARE THAT HIS NUMBERED VOLUMES AREN'T IN ORDER.
THAT SORT OF THING MAKES ME ITCHY.
MOVE YOUR HANDS, NOT YOUR MOUTH.
THIS HAS REALLY BEEN BOTHERING ME SINCE I FIRST SAW IT...
KOTSUN! (THUNK)
?!
HM?
I'D NEVER ARRANGE THEM THAT WAY MYSELF. BUT..
...IF YOU GROUP THEM BY SIZE, IT LOOKS SHARP.
HEY, DON'T GET CAUGHT UP DOING POINTLESS STUFF.
ORDER THEM BY AUTHOR?
OR ORDER THEM BY TITLE? OPINIONS VARY, BUT...
...HUH?
SET
DEAD
YOU PUT A BOOK ON TOP, AND THEN IT FALLS DOWN BEHIND...
FALIN DID THAT A LOT TOO.
THERE'S SOMETHING AT THE BACK OF THIS SHELF.

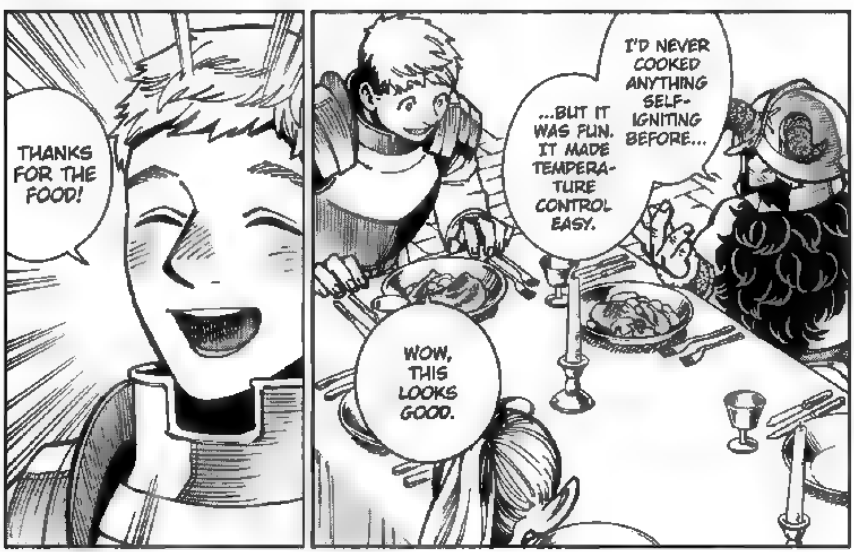

I'M ON IT!
I'D LIKE TO WASH THEM TOO.
BRING THE DISHES FROM THE TABLE, THEN.
THERE WAS NOTHING IN THE BEDROOM.
CAN I HELP WITH ANYTHING, SENSHI?
COME TO THINK OF IT, THESE PEOPLE DON'T NEED TO EAT.
SO WHY—
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SITTING HERE?
THIS PLATE'S ANCIENT ...
EXCUSE ME.
ACH!
-BORO (CRUMBLE)


フルフル
FURU
フルフル
FURU (SHAKE)
...NEVER MIND. I'LL CLEAN THIS UP.
ガシャ
GA (CRUNCH)


...AND THE OIL STAYS AT A SUITABLE TEMPERATURE.
I TAKE 3.5 STEPS BACK...
WHEN I STEP AWAY, IT IGNITES ALMOST IMMEDIATELY...
...SO I RUB IN SPICES, THEN SOAK IT IN OIL.
PHOENIX.
...I STEP BACK...
BO (BOOM)
...THEN RETURN RIGHT AWAY.
SYU (SHEE)
AFTER I TAKE THE MEAT FROM THE OIL AND LADLE SAUCE OVER IT...
HOLDING THAT POSITION, I MAKE THE TRIMMINGS AND THE SAUCE.
OH-HO!
HEEEY! THE FOOD'S READY...


THE PLACE LOOKS MUCH NICER.


PHOENIX CONFIT
Ingredients
Phoenix——1
Oil——A potful
Spices——To taste
ENERGY
PROTEIN
FAT
CARBS
CALCIUM
IRON
VITAMIN A
VITAMIN B2
VITAMIN C
ALL RIGHT, LET'S EAT.
TRIMMINGS
Ingredients
Carrots——3
Onions——3
Potatoes——5
Walking mushrooms——2

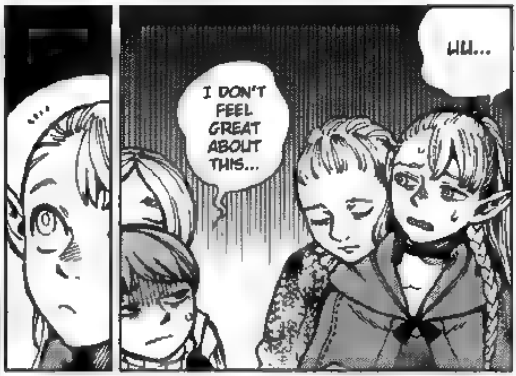

THANKS FOR THE FOOD!
WOW, THIS LOOKS GOOD.
...BUT IT WAS FUN. IT MADE TEMPERATURE CONTROL EASY.
I'D NEVER COOKED ANYTHING SELF-IGNITING BEFORE...

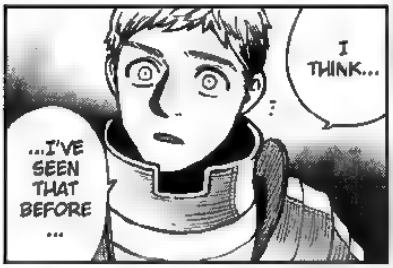

THIS JUST FEELS WRONG!!


IF IT IGNITES INSIDE US, IT'LL BE A DISASTER.
WE NEED TO KEEP OUR STOMACHS RIGHT UP AGAINST THEIRS.


UNLESS THESE PEOPLE ARE NEAR US, THE PHOENIX WILL PROBABLY REVIVE.
DO WE HAVE TO SIT IN THE CHAIRS WITH THEM!?


OH RIGHT!
LOOK, YOU GUYS!


....
I DON'T FEEL GREAT ABOUT THIS...
UU...


I THINK...
...I'VE SEEN THAT BEFORE ...


I FOUND THIS BOOK IN THE LIBRARY.


IT'S BOUND LIKE THE ONE THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN HAD.
IS IT?
IT WAS REALLY DUSTY, SO I DOUBT IT'S THE SAME ONE.

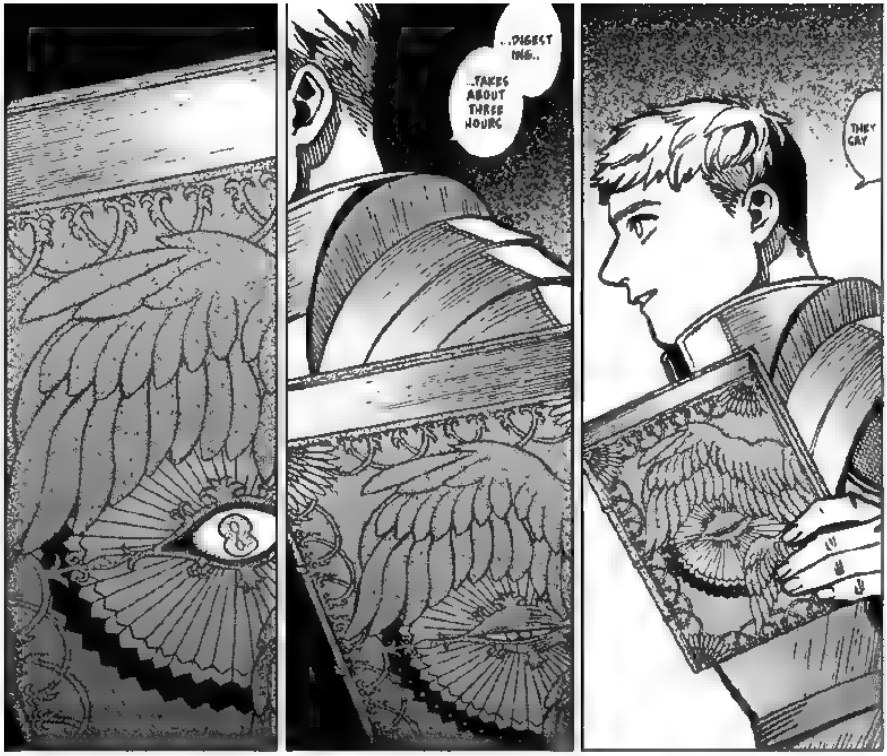

LET'S LOOK AT IT AFTER WE EAT.
HERE, LAIOS.


ANCIENT MAGIC IS MY SPECIALTY.
I'VE SEEN THINGS LIKE THIS BEFORE


I THINK SISSEL MAY HAVE SEALED THE WINGED LION INTO THIS BOOK.
IT MIGHT BE SPLIT IN TWO.
YOU'RE AWFULLY CONFI-DENT.


I KNOW.


DON'T SPILL ANYTHING ON IT.
IF IT'S REAL, IT'S THE ONLY HOPE WE'VE GOT.


...DIGEST ING..
...TAKES ABOUT THREE HOURS
THEY SAY


OH, THAT'S RIGHT.
HURRY AND EAT, OR IT'LL COME BACK TO LIFE.
HM.
NOT BAD.
IT'S TENDER!
THIS IS YUMMY.


64. RABBITS -1-


GNH... RRH-RGH...
HNRR-RRRR-RRGH!

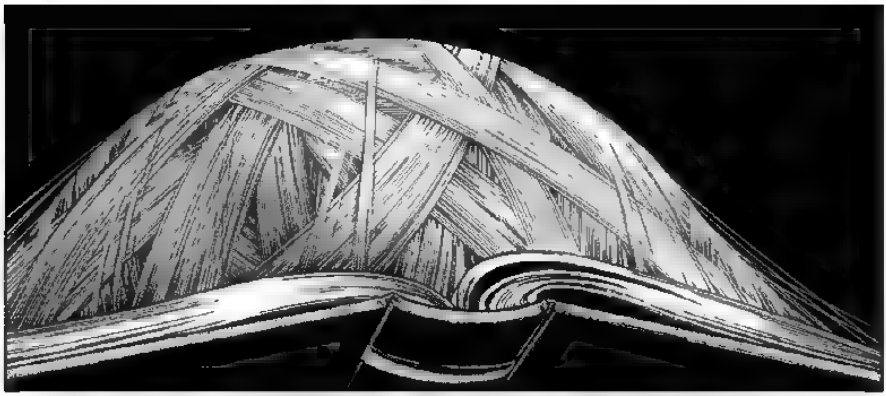

IT JUST WON'T OPEN.
IT FEELS LIKE THE PAGES ARE GLUED TOGETHER.

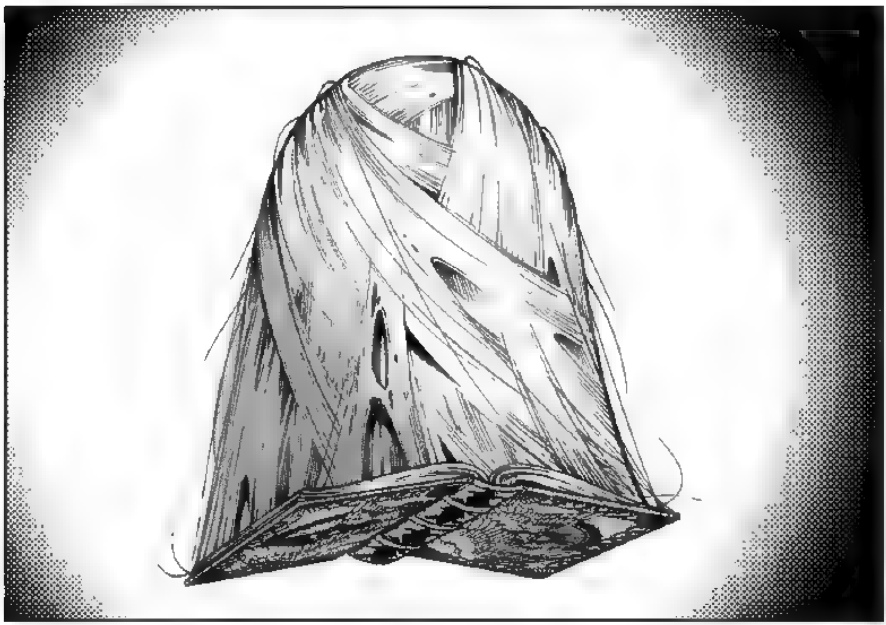

OF COURSE IT WON'T OPEN. IT'S SEALED.
HERE.
I'LL SEE IF I CAN UNDO IT.
IS THAT HOW IT WORKS?


...BUT I UNDERSTAND IT.
I CAN UNSEAL IT!
ALL SORTS OF SPELLS ARE TWISTED TOGETHER...
MM-HMM...
MM-HMM...
そわっ
SOWA (SQUIRM)
NO MATTER WHAT I TRIED, I'D ALWAYS HIT A WALL IN THE END.
I TOLD YOU, I CAN'T ALLOW IT.
ANCIENT MAGIC RESEARCH WAS A CONSTANT BATTLE WITH THE CENSORS.
I'VE FINALLY COME THIS FAR...
WHAT'S IN THIS BOOK IS THAT "HEART."
...I DECIDED I'D GO TO THE DUNGEON.
NEVER GETTING TO THE HEART OF IT WAS FRUSTRATING, SO...


LEND ME YOUR STRENGTH, AMBROSIA.
THAT'S ITS NAME?
...I'LL WRENCH IT OPEN!!
I'LL USE AMBROSIA TO ABSORB...
...THE THICK MAGIC SEA THAT COVERS THE BOOK.
ONCE IT'S THINNED OUT...


ビシ
BISHI (KRAK.)
ビシ
BISHI
ビシ
BISHI
みち
MICHI (KRIK)
みち
MICHI (KRIK)
みち
MICHI (KRIK)
PAN (BLAM)
AH!












I-IT SPOKE...
HELLO THERE. IT'S GOOD TO MEET YOU.
SO THIS IS THE TRUE SHAPE OF THE DUNGEON'S POWER.
...WINGED LION?
THEN YOU'RE THE...
I SAY "MEET," BUT I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU ALL ALONG.


ONLY YOUR HEAD'S OUT, THOUGH.
IN THIS STATE, THERE ISN'T MUCH I CAN DO FOR YOU...
...BUT WE CAN TALK, AT LEAST.
AS YOU CAN SEE, HALF OF THE SEAL IS BROKEN...
...BUT THE OTHER HALF IS STILL IN SISSEL'S HANDS.
AS IT HAPPENS, THOUGH, WE DON'T HAVE TIME.
NOW, THEN.
THERE'S MUCH I WISH TO DISCUSS WITH YOU...
...AND I'M SURE YOU HAVE MANY QUESTIONS FOR ME.


HE'S HEADED STRAIGHT BACK HERE.
ALONG WITH FALIN...
SISSEL HAS NOTICED THAT MY SEAL IS HALF-BROKEN.
!
ON FALIN...
WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT HER!?
I'LL SUPPRESS SISSEL'S POWER AND BUY TIME.
YOU FOCUS ON FALIN.
CALM DOWN.
THEY CAN'T BE!!
I'M NOT READY FOR THIS!
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THAT FOR A WHILE NOW.
GABURI (CHOMP)
WAAAA
SO, WHAT, WE SHOULD CUT OFF FALIN'S HEAD WHILE SHE'S CHEWING ON LAIOS'S LEG?
WE DEFEATED THE RED DRAGON.
THERE'S NOTHING TO FEAR...


HM?
...HAS TO BE HUNGRY!
RIGHT NOW, FALIN...
THERE'S ONE THING I'M SURE OF.
...WHY?
HER MOUTH AND THROAT ARE TOO SMALL TO MAINTAIN A BODY THAT BIG.
IT'S THE SAME SIZE AS OURS.
BUT HER HEAD?
FALIN
AS WE'VE SEEN, HER BODY IS PRETTY HUGE.
AVERAGE ADULT MALE (TALL MAN)


HER TEETH AND JAW AREN'T AS STRONG AS A CARNIVORE'S...
...AND HER PALATE WILL REJECT RAW MEAT AND BLOOD.
SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE SLEEPING TO CONSERVE ENERGY, THE WAY MOST DRAGONS DO.
IN OTHER WORDS ...
TO EVEN HAVE THE ENERGY TO STAY ACTIVE...
...SHE'D HAVE TO SPEND MOST OF THE DAY CHEWING.
...RIGHT NOW, FALIN MUST BE FAMISHED !!
GURUR..JRURU (GRUMBLE)
I SEE.
POOR FALIN.


IF WE MIX IN ALCOHOL, JUST TO BE SAFE...
SOMETHING SHE CAN GULP DOWN FAST WOULD BE BEST.
SOMETHING HIGHLY NUTRITIOUS AND AROMATIC.
SO WE'LL COOK FOR HER.
...BUT THERE ARE A FEW PROBLEMS.
-OHHH...
THEN WE CAN DO WHATEVER WE WANT WITH HER.
...FALIN'S BOUND TO FALL ASLEEP JUST LIKE THAT.
AND THAT IS...?
?
GOKURI (GULP)
TWO: I ALREADY HAVE AN IDEA ABOUT WHAT TO USE.
ONE: WE'LL NEED TO FIND MONSTERS TO COOK, FAST.


RABBITS!?
SAW SOME ROUND DROPPINGS EARLIER.
THREE: IT'S LIKELY THEY'RE RABBITS.
THE TALE OF THE INFAMOUS "DUNGEON RABBITS" IS WHISPERED ABOUT AMONG ADVENTURERS.
IN GENERAL, THE STORY GOES LIKE THIS—
SO WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
RABBITS ON A FLOOR THIS DEEP...
がく GAKU (SLUMP)
...ALL MISSING THEIR HEADS.
EVEN SO, ONE DAY THEY WERE FOUND DEAD...
THERE WAS A GROUP OF VETERANS, WELL USED TO THE DUNGEON'S DEPTHS...
...WHO WOULD NEVER LOSE TO YOUR AVERAGE MONSTER.


S...
SCARY...
THE RABBITS...
ONCE REVIVED, THEY EACH SAID...
...AND THAT'S IT. THEY NEVER WENT INTO THE DUNGEON AGAIN.
BUT SINCE THERE ARE RABBIT DROPPINGS HERE...
IT'S NOT CLEAR...
...WHETHER IT WAS A RABBIT MONSTER OR SOMETHING ELSE.
MAR-CILLE.
KACHA (CLINK)
KACHA
I'LL LOAN YOU THIS.
...IT'S REALLY LIKELY TO BE AN INSANELY STRONG RABBIT...?


HUH?
WHAT?
D'WAH HA HA HA!
KAPON (PLONK)
かぽん
KLIN (SNIEF) KLIN
JUST PROTECTING MY NECK WON'T...
IF YOU DIE, WE CAN'T RESURRECT ANYONE.
SINCE THAT'S SO, YOU WEAR IT, JUST IN CASE.
...BECAUSE IT WAS SAID TO GUARANTEE SURVIVAL EVEN IF YOU ENCOUNTERED RABBITS.
I BOUGHT THIS ARMOR...
WINGED LION!
HEARING COMMON SENSE FROM THAT GUY IS REALLY IRRITATING.
SHE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO MOVE AROUND LIKE THAT.
PLUG IT'S DANGEROUS.
WOULDN'T SHE BE SAFER IF WE WRAPPED YAAD AROUND HER NECK?


LISTEN, LAIOS.
I GUESS IT'LL WORK.
HUNT AND COOK IN HALF A DAY...
HOW MUCH LONGER UNTIL FALIN ARRIVES?
HALF A DAY, I'D SAY.
WHILE I'M HOLDING BACK SISSEL'S POWER ...
...I WON'T BE ABLE TO HELP YOU.
I KNOW.
DON'T DO ANYTHING RECKLESS. PLEASE.
I REALLY DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU HERE.
ALL RIGHT. LET'S GO.
WE'RE HUNTING RABBITS!


MARCILLE.
CAN YOU STARTLE THE RABBITS WITH MAGIC BUT NOT HURT THEM?
SURE.
TAN (THUMP)
タン!!
THOSE ARE RABBIT BURROWS.
WE'LL RIG UP SNARES THERE.
EVERYONE LOOK AROUND FOR HOLES.
LIKE THIS.
CHIRA (GLANCE)
ちら…
THEY USUALLY USE DOGS TO SCARE UP THE RABBITS, BUT—
"BUT"?
SAY IT. I DARE YOU.


Stomp!
WHEN RABBITS ARE ANGRY OR WANT TO WARN OTHERS, THEY'LL KICK THE GROUND LOUDLY.
IT COULD BE STOMPING.
WHAT WAS THAT NOISE?
MARCILLE AND CHILCHUCK, YOU WAIT NEAR THE HOUSE.
SENSHI, IZUTSUMI.
WE'LL TAKE IT NICE AND SLOW.
IT CAME FROM OVER THERE.
HM...
タン!
TAN
BE CAREFUL...


TATAN (TAPPING)
LET'S SCARE IT, BUT GO EASY.
GAN (CLANG)
GAN
GAN
NO CLAWS, FANGS, OR WINGS.
KEH HEH HEH.
IT MAY NOT BE A DUNGEON RABBIT AT ALL.
IT'S A NORMAL...
RABBIT. YEAH.
PYU (WHING)
GAN
GAN
GAN


IF WE FOLLOW THESE...
FAST!
IT'S FINE. IT'S LEAVING TRACKS.
I CAN'T SEE THE TRACKS ANYMORE.
PITA- (QUALT)
GASA (RUSTLE)
GASA
MEAN-ING...
ZA (SKIP)
ZA
BACK TH—
IT'S PRETTY SMART.
GASA
I FIGURED IT WOULD RUN BACK TO ITS BURROW...
...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE IT LED US AWAY.

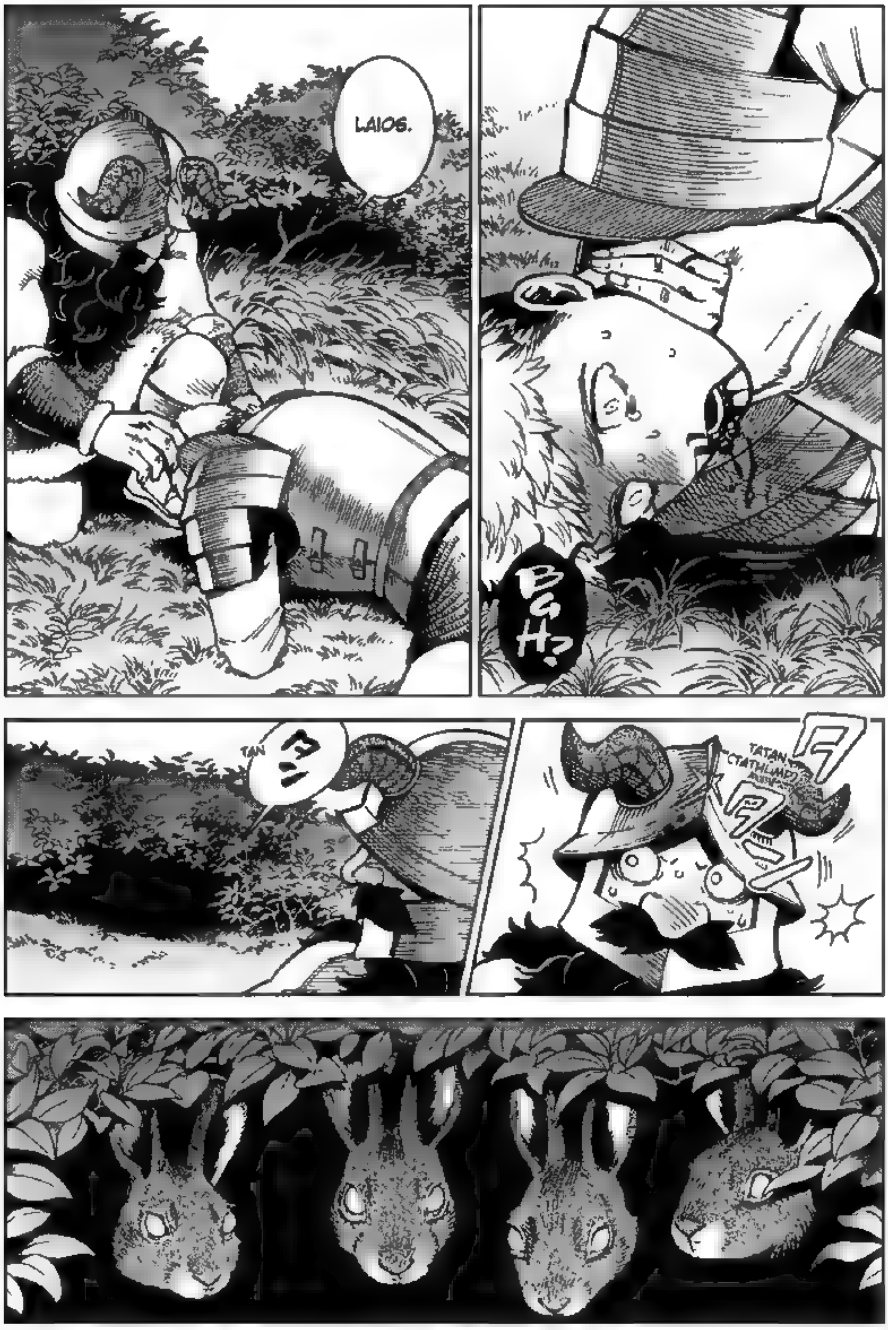

PA (LEAP)
KURU (FLIP)
TOH (TMP)
AW! IT GOT AWAY.
YEAH, BECAUSE HE SPACED OUT.
KAKUN (CLIPPED)
AGILE LITTLE CRITTER...
WHAT'S WRONG, LAIOS?


HGK!
BGH!
GHK!
YAH (THUMP)
!!
AH?
WHA...?


SATAN TATSUMI
タタン
DAN THOMAS
ダン!
TAN
タン
THERE'S NO MISTAKE.
THESE ARE...
WHAT'S WRONG? IS HE OKAY?
DID HE SPRAIN SOME-THING?
KOFF!
GH!
TAN
タン
...DUNGEON RABBITS!!
CHAPTER 64: THE END


65. RABBITS -2-


I CAN'T REALLY SEE FROM HERE.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH LAIOS?
HRMM...
MAYBE IT HIT A WEIRD SPOT?
IT JUST LOOKED LIKE THE RABBIT BUMPED INTO HIM.
.....
GUI CHANO
I THINK WE SHOULD GO CHECK ON THEM.
IF THAT WAS A REAL DUNGEON RABBIT, HE'S ALREADY DEAD.


LAIOS.
BGH?
TAN
TATAN
CTATHLAM?
TATAN


IAN (THUMP)
E!!
...
HUH? WHAT?
IT HAS BLADES ON ITS HIND FEET!!
ITS FEET.


TAH
TOU (HOW)
GHK...
BUSHU (SPLURCH)


DO (THUD)
PIT
DOSA (THUD)
TON (THUD)
BOTE (FLOP)
TAN (THUMP)
HFF!
HFF!


TAN
TATAN! (TATHUMP)
BABA
BA (LEAD)


GRRR!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING, AND WHERE I?
IZU-TSUMI I?
YOWWWR!
THOSE ARE SPASMS! THEY'RE DONE FOR!
BUT I THINK LAIOS AND SENSHI ARE HURT.
THEY'RE STILL MOVING...
MAR-CILLE.
LET'S GET INSIDE.
GUI
BUT...
GUI
PORO (SAG)
WE'LL JUST RES-URRECT THEM LATER!
HURRY!
HUH?
HUH?
GUI (TUG)


DOKA (CRUSHED)
ドサ!!
AH—
OH.


GYAR! (SKREEK)
どた
DOTA (WHUMP)
EEE!
EEP!
KURUN (FLIP)


BON (BOOM!)
ホ!
AH!
GH!
OH!
ZUN (WHUT?)
ズン
WOW...
OUCH


THAT WAS MUCH MORE POWERFUL THAN USUAL.
WHEN I BROKE THE LION'S SEAL...
...I TOOK IN TOO MUCH MANA.
Pulverized
...BUT THEN WE COULDN'T MAKE FALIN'S MEAL!
I COULD WIPE OUT THE RABBITS WITH THIS...
FLASH
MON-STER WARD
SUM-MON
MUST BE CAST BEFORE BEING SPOTTED
WATER-WALK
WHAT ELSE CAN I USE!?
DEFENSE
IT'S NOT INVINCIBLE
HEAL-ING
RESURREC-TION IS AN ADVANCED VERSION.


IF I USED A FAMILIAR AS A DECOY...
I MIGHT NOT DIE, BUT I'D BE BADLY HURT.
I DON'T THINK I COULD CATCH UP.
SHOULD I CAST DEFENSE ON MYSELF AND CHARGE THEM!?
FLASH IS THE BEST POSSIBILITY...
...BUT IT WON'T WORK UNLESS I GET CLOSE.
NO.
WE'RE ONLY IN THIS MESS [redacted] WE NEED INGREDIENTS.
THERE'S NO EXTRA FOOD TO MAKE FAM!—


USING NECROMANCY TO ANIMATE HUMAN CORPSES IS A CRIME...
HOO...
...BUT IT'S NOT AS IF THE LAW WILL PROTECT US NOW.
KAKU (CLUTCH)
ONE.
TWO.
BA (CLUTCH)
KAKU (CLUTCH)
ONE!
TWO!
BA
I HAVE TO CLEAR A PATH...
...SO I CAN BRING THE REST BACK TO LIFE.
LET'S GO, CHIL-CHUCK!!
DOKUN. (TOUCH)
PYON (HOP)
OKAY! THIS'LL WORK!
NOW I'LL BE ABLE TO RETRIEVE THE OTHERS' BODIES!


AAAAAAH!
NOW'S MY CHANCE!!
EEP!
CHIL-CHUCK, I'M SORRY!
GASUN
GASHI
GASUN
GASHI
TAN (THUMP)
TATAN (TATTHUMP)


O
LIGHT
!!
KA
CFLASH!
KIRUUU
CWHEEEEE


PIKU
TWITCH
PIKU
PIKU
WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH THE STUNNED RABBITS?
IF I JUST LEAVE THEM, THEY'LL WAKE UP.
I-IT WORKED.
A FEW GOT AWAY, BUT EVEN SO...
ZUWA
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS!
FOR NOW, I'LL JUST TAKE BOTH SENSHI AND THE RABBITS AND—
YOU JUST TWIST THEIR NECKS.
IT'S EASY.
"CRICK!" LIKE THAT!
"CRICK!"


LET'S GET LAIOS NEXT!
COME ON, EVERY-BODY!
ZA (SK!?)
SENSHI, LOOK OUT!
DAN (THUMP)
DA'AN (TA'THUMP)


スッ
ガン
ズズズン
ズズズン


TAKE THAT!!
KA (FLASH)
NOW WE JUST NEED IZUTSUMI...
WHEEZE...
HAFF...
GOT LAIOS.
AH!
COME ON OUUUUT.
IT'S NOT SCARY ANY-MOOORE.
GASA (RUSTLE)
HELLOOOO! IZUTSUMI!!


BIKU (FLINCH)
OH, IZUTSUMI!
THERE YOU ARE.
POTA (DRIP)
BIKU
BIKU
YOU'RE BADLY HURT.
COME ON DOWN! I'LL HEAL YOU.
SEE?
SEE?
IT'S ME, IZUTSUMI!!.
WHAT'S WRONG?
ARE YOU STUCK UP THERE?


AAAH!
ZURU (SLIP)
ズル
LAIOS, YOU DO IT!
I CAN'T CATCH HER!
BA (LUNGE)
MROW!
LOOK OUT!
AAAAH!
GASHI (GRAB)
カ


AH!
IT WASN'T A HEART ATTACK, WAS IT...?
ARE YOU KIDDING ME!? SHE DIED!?
GAKU (SLUMP)
UWAH!
KO (FLASH)
KASA (RUSTLE)
SENSHI'S STUCK!!
OH! IZUTSU-MI'S SLIP-PING!
NYURU (OOZE)


GOTSUN (CLONK)
OH!
GON (CTHUNK)
WE'RE FINALLY HERE...
OH RIGHT. I HAVE TO GET THEM ALL THROUGH THIS DOOR.
THROUGH... THIS DOOR...
WHEN THEY'RE ALL MOVING...
...THE EXACT SAME WAY!
SUCH A...
...PAIN IN THE BUTT...
WELCOME BACK.


ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA (SHF.
KURU (SHIVEL)
くるっ
PITARI (HALT)
ぴたり
HAFF!
HUFF!
HFF!
HAAH!
HFF!
MARCILLE.
BATA
DOTA (THUMP)
BATA (FLUMP)


どっ
DO (BLOOSH)
SNIFF!
SNIFF!
IT CHILLED MY BLOOD.
THAT I WAS UNABLE TO DO ANYTHING WAS SUPREMELY FRUSTRATING.
I WATCHED THE WHOLE THING.
WHEW.
TH-THE WOUNDS AREN'T COMPLI-CATED.
I JUST HAVE TO STICK THEM BACK TOGETHER, SO.. PROBABLY.
CAN YOU HEAL THEM?
...I'M GLAD YOU SURVIVED.
AT ANY RATE...


KAPO (SHUP)
かぽ
DID YOU KNOW? IS THAT WHY YOU GAVE ME THIS?
LAIOS...
"EVEN IF WE ALL DIE, MARCILLE WILL FIX US, SO IT'S FINE"!?
THAT'S NOT EVEN A PLAN, ALL RIGHT!?
KOTON (CLUNK)
THANKS TO YOU, I WAS THE SOLE SURVIVOR.
DID YOU THINK BEYOND THAT?


DID YOU GIVE EVEN A MOMENT'S THOUGHT TO HOW I'D FEEL SURROUNDED BY YOUR CORPSES...?
MARCILLE...


ONCE I RETAKE MY BODY, I PROMISE I'LL HELP YOU.
YOU NEVER WANT TO FEEL THIS WAY AGAIN, CORRECT?
THROUGH THE NIGHTMARES, I SAW YOUR FEAR.
(HIKURI (GULP)
ギクリ
REALLY?
CAN IT REALLY BE DONE?
I...
JIWAAA (TEARY)
じわー


I WANT TO MAKE THE RACES' LIFE SPANS EQUAL.
THE DIFFERENCE IS TOO BIG NOW, AND IT BREEDS MISFORTUNE.
THERE ARE INVISIBLE GULFS BETWEEN THE RACES...
...AND WE DON'T SEE ONE ANOTHER AS FELLOWS.
TALL-MEN, DWARVES, AND ELVES...
I WANT US ALL TO LIVE AT THE SAME PACE.
I WANT TO GET RID OF THOSE GULFS.
I WANT EVERYONE IN THE WORLD...
...TO JUST LIVE— TOGETHER.
CAN YOU REALLY DO THAT?


OF COURSE!
HOWEVER, WHEN YOU CAME HERE, YOU WERE PREPARED, WERE YOU NOT?
"EVERY-ONE IN THE WORLD," HM?
IT CERTAINLY ISN'T A WISH THAT HALF MEASURES COULD GRANT.
KOFF
UU...
IF NOT, ONCE THIS JOURNEY ENDS, THEY'LL ALL—


RABBITS ARE SCARY...
UGH. I BLED FROM MY MOUTH AND NOSE. GROSS.
むくり
MUKURI (RISE)
AHHHH...
IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE I DIED...
ズリ
SLI (SHIP)
OH, THA—
WAUGH!
I'M USING MAGIC TO MAKE THEM MATCH MY MOVEMENTS.
I DIDN'T.
HOW DID YOU TAME THE RABBITS!?
MARCILLE!?


HUH!
HEY, MARCILLE?
I'D SURE LIKE TO SEE THE RABBITS DANCE.
.....
.....
WOW...
YOU CAN DO THAT?
.....
LISTEN, YOU!!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW HARD THIS WAS ON ME!?
EVERYBODY DIED AND LEFT ME ALL BY MY—


I'M SORRY I JOKED ABOUT IT.
THAT WAS ROUGH, HUH.
SO, BAD IT MADE YOU CRY.
MARCILLE.
?
MAR-CILLE, I'M SORRY.
ALL RIGHT, MARCILLE.
DON'T EVER PUT ME THROUGH THAT AGAIN.
CHAPTER 65. THE END






66. CURRY -1-


JIII (STAAARE)
WE CAN'T DEPART UNTIL WE KNOW THEY'RE SAFE.
OUR COMPANIONS ARE STILL IN THERE.
THAT'S ONE NASTY-LOOKING GNOME...
THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS.
I MUST ASK THAT YOU LEAVE.
BY THE WILL OF THE ISLAND'S LORD, THE DUNGEON IS SEALED.
THE BACK DOOR!?
FINE. WE'LL USE THE BACK DOOR.
YOU THREATENED US WITH AN ARMY FIRST!
GUCHA
HEY! YOU SHOVED ME! IF IT'S A FIGHT YOU WANT—
I WON'T HAVE IT!
GUCHA (HOP)
GUCHA


EXCUSE ME!
YOU TWO SAW KABRU, DIDN'T YOU?
GYUU. (SHOVE)
ぎゅう
きゅう
HEY! DON'T PUSH, OR ELSE—
DON (WALLHIT)
ドン
DON'T TOUCH ME, YOU!!
BEEP!
THE SIXTH FLOOR DOWN.
WHERE IS HE NOW?
AH, O-KIN
THE SIXTH FLOOR ...!?
.....
WAAAH!
POR
ポ
ポ
Y—! YOUNG MASTER!


PATA (FLUTTER)
PATATA
JII (STARE)
BA (WHIP)
WAI (CHAT)
WAI
PACH! (BLINK)
IT'S AN END-LESS LOOP
ZILCH!!
AND YOUR RESULTS?
HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE HERE ANYMORE.
WHAT WAS HIS NAME? LAIOS?
YOU HEARD HER.
DON'T JUST ELEGANTLY DINE OVER THERE WHILE I'M SCOUTING FOR DEAR LIFE!
HEY!!!


HE'S NOT HERE...?
HUH!?
THE DUN-GEON...
YOU MEAN THE DEMON?
THE DUNGEON SEEMS QUITE FOND OF THE BOY.
IT LOOKS LIKE HE TOOK A HIDDEN PATH TO A DIFFERENT LEVEL.
GATSU (SNARF) GATSU
THE CANARIES' TRAVEL RATIONS
I SURE HOPE WE FIND IT BEFORE OUR RATIONS RUN OUT.
SHUT UP.
THEY DRY OUT YOUR MOUTH LIKE CRAZY.
IT'S HIDDEN PRETTY CLEVERLY, AND IT'S HARD.
POKU (SNAP)
WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY "HIDDEN PATH"?
WE'RE LOOKING NOW!


WHAT HAPPENS IF LAIOS RELEASES THE SEAL ON THE DEMON?
...IT WILL PROBABLY URGE HIM TO KILL THE DUNGEON'S CURRENT LORD.
FIRST...
CITHIS!
IT'S FINE.
THE CAPTAIN'S TOLD HIM EVERYTHING ANYWAY.
THEN HE'LL BECOME THE NEW LORD.
BUT HE'S NOT INTERESTED IN THOSE, IS HE?
WHAT INTERESTS HIM ARE...
DAZZLING FORTUNES...
THE DEMON CAN GRANT ANY WISH.
IMMORTALITY, WINE AND WOMEN...


...MON-
STERS.
HE MAY WANT TO BECOME ONE HIMSELF.
OR TURN HUMANS INTO MONSTERS?
OR MAYBE HE'LL MAKE THE ULTIMATE MONSTER.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT SOMEONE WHO LOVES MONSTERS WOULD WISH FOR.
MAYBE TO LIVE AMONG THEM?
I BET HE'D WISH FOR ALL OF THAT!!
HEH
EITHER WAY, INVADING THE DUNGEON WILL BE HARDER, WHICH IS WHAT THE DEMON WANTS.
HEH
GYA HA HA!
WHAT KIND OF A WISH IS THAT!?


THEN, PRECEDED BY A WAVE OF MONSTERS AND MANA, THE DEMON WILL TRY TO INVADE THE SURFACE.
AND THEN...
THE DEMON WILL DEVOUR THAT MAN'S DESIRES, STIR UP MORE OF THEM...
...AND FINALLY DRIVE HIM ABOVE-GROUND.
...EVERY-BODY DIES.
AFTER ALL, NOBODY'S LEFT RECORDS ABOUT IT.
RIGHT. WE DON'T KNOW WHAT COMES AFTER.
MEAN-ING...
HOW DID UTAYA END UP?
DIDN'T IT GET SHUT DOWN JUST IN TIME?
HUH? HE WAS RIGHT THERE...
BY THE WAY, WHERE'S THE CAPTAIN?
ARE WE GONNA GET OUT ALIVE?
HM? THAT I STOP AND THINK, ISN'T THIS BAD?


THAT'S NOT SAFE.
COME DOWN, PLEASE!
AH!
THE DEMON IS NEAR.
HUH?
GASHI (GRAB)
KABRU! MAKE HIM STOP!
CAPTAIN MITHRUN, DON'T TELEPORT AROUND SO HAPHAZARDLY!
SU
SU
SU
WAH!
SU (SHIP)


トン
TON (TAP)
HERE.
YOU SAY THAT LIKE IT'S EASY...
HE'S BEYOND THIS.
OPEN IT, OTTA.
HOO
SHOO!
SHOO!
COME ON, BACK UP, MOVE IT.


ZUZUN (RRRUMBLE)
CAPTAIN, LET'S LET HER HANDLE THIS. WE'LL GO EAT.
I CAN'T FOCUS!
ZU
ZUZU!
.....
YOU'RE GOOD AT DEALING WITH THE CAPTAIN.
UNLESS YOU EAT, YOU WON'T BEAT THE DEMON.
IGNORING ME, HM?
.....


ジ
(STAARE)
A
A
A
A
R
LAIOS! ARE YOU FINISHED MINCING THE ONIONS!?
UNTIL THEY'RE GOLDEN !!
NO, SAUTÉ THE ONIONS FIRST!!
THE POTATOES AND CARROTS ARE DONE! DO I BOIL THEM!?
WE'LL NEED A LOT MORE!
GOOD, KEEP STEAMING!
THE FIRST BATCH OF RICE IS READY !


COOK THEM, BUT DON'T LET THEM SCORCH.
YES.
WELL DONE, LAIOS!!
DON (BOOM)
TSUYA (GLOSSY)
ツヤ
TSUYA
ツヤ
BROWN THEM SLOWLY.
ONCE THEY'RE GOLDEN, THEY'RE DONE.
MELT BUTTER IN A POT. THEN SAUTÉ THE ONIONS.
IF YOU ADD A LITTLE SALT NOW, THEY'LL SOFTEN FASTER.
まぜっ
MAZE (STIR)
まぜっ
MAZE
バ
BA (SHAUP)
THEN ADD SPICES.
バ
BA


DON'T SHOW ME. DON'T SHOW ME.
MARCILLE, LOOK! IT JUST PEELS OFF, LIKE CLOTHING!
BER (RIP) BER!
REMOVE THE HEAD, FEET, AND SKIN.
CUT OPEN AND GUT THE RABBITS.
ONCE THE MEAT'S COOKED THROUGH, ADD WATER.
WITH TWENTY, WE'LL HAVE ENOUGH.
THE EDIBLE PART.
THERE'S NOT MUCH LEFT NOW.
CUT THE MEAT FROM THE BONES.
JYA (SIZZLE)
ADD THE MEAT TO THE ONIONS AND SAUTÉ.
AND STEW!
THEN STEW.




## HEAD-HUNTING RABBIT CURRY

**Ingredients**

- Dungeon rabbits——About 20
- Onions, potatoes, carrots——About 20 of each
- Garlic——5
- Mushrooms (not identified)——25
- Spices——To taste
- Oil, butter——To taste
- Changelings——6 (used to make the polished rice)
- Rice——4,000 g


THERE ARE ALL SORTS.
IT SMELLS SO INTEREST-ING. WHAT SPICES DID YOU USE?
SHE'LL BE ABLE TO EAT A LOT OF THE CURRY SAUCE, FAST.
THE CARBS WILL RAISE HER BLOOD SUGAR AND MAKE HER DROWSY.
TH-THAT LOOKS REALLY GOOD.
THE AROMA OF THE SPICES WHETS THE APPETITE.
...SPICES I FOUND IN SISSEL'S HOUSE...
...SPICES FROM THE GOLDEN COUNTRY...
...SPICES MAIZURU GAVE ME...
SPICES I WAS GIVEN AT THE ORC VILLAGE...
TH-THAT'S INCREDIBLE...
HORORI (SNIFFLE)
I USED THE CHANGELINGS TO CONVERT A VARIETY OF GRAINS INTO RICE.
AND FOODS WE FOUND IN THE DUNGEON.


THE ORCS...
EVERYONE IN THE GOLDEN COUNTRY...
SHURO... NAMARI...
SISSEL...
YAAD...
WHO?
KAP..... KAPRU...
IT'S KABRU
ALL OF YOU... THANK YOU SO MUCH.
WITH OUR COMBINED STRENGTH, WE'LL INTERCEPT FALINI!
ALL RIGHT!
NOW IS THE TIME TO SHOW THE POWER OF FOOD!
.....
RAAAAAH!


ZUGOGOGOGO (RRRUMBLE)
DON'T SHOVE!
DON'T PUSH!
RAAH!
CURRY!
AAAH!
GARA (CRUMBLE)
GARA
PACH! (BLINK)
WHAT EXACTLY IS GOING ON...?


THE LION IS ALTERING THE DUNGEON'S SHAPE AND GETTING IN MY WAY.
THE PEOPLE WHO'VE BROKEN INTO MY HOUSE ARE FREEING THE WINGED LION.
YAAAAY!
ON THE FIRST FLOOR, THE ELVES' ARMY IS QUARRELING WITH THE HUMANS.
ON THE SIXTH FLOOR, THAT MAN'S GROUP IS BREAKING THE DUNGEON.


...THE TELEPORTATION EXPERT. I CAN'T LET HIM NEAR MY HOUSE.
THE MOST DANGEROUS ONE IS...
WHO SHOULD I DEAL WITH FIRST...?


"IN HIS LAST MOMENTS...
"...I HEAR HE WISHED FOR YOUR DEATH."
YOU HAVE NO REASON TO PROTECT THE CASTLE NOW.
DELGAL FLED ABOVEGROUND AND TURNED TO DUST.


THAT'S A LIE.
IT'S A LIE, IT'S A LIE!!
AND THEN, LIM...
GARIN
LIMM...!
DELGAL ASKED ME TO DO THIS!
I'M PRO-TECTING HIM!!
GLI (CRUSH)
KORON (ROLL)
POWA (GLOW)


?
HUH?
WHAT ...?
BERRIES?
GAAAN (SHOCK)
ガーン
BAKU (CHOMP)
ばく
MUNZU (GRAB)
ムニズ
EVER SINCE YOU CHANGED SHAPE, YOU'VE BEEN A LITTLE WEIRD...
GOKUN... (GULP)
ごくん
GUU (GRUMBLE)
ぐぅ
MOGU MOGU
もぐ もぐ
MOGU CHNCHD
もぐ


FIRST, I'LL GO HOME AND SEAL THE WINGED LION.
I NEED HIM TO MAINTAIN THE KINGDOM. I CAN'T LET HIM GET AWAY.
(I'LL KILL THE INTRUDERS WHILE I'M AT IT.)
I KNOW WHAT I'LL DO.
GUKU (STAND)
スクッ…
I'LL USE MONSTERS TO GET THE FIRST FLOOR UNDER CONTROL.
IN THE DEPTHS, I'D NEVER LOSE TO A GUY LIKE THAT.
THEN I'LL AMBUSH THE TELEPORTATION EXPERT AND KILL HIM.
GU (GRIP)


KACHIN (CLICK)
GOO (FOOM)
DRAG-ON!
HEAD STRAIGHT TO THE HOUSE!


HERE. FOR YOU.
PICKY EATERS DON'T GET BIG AND STRONG.
SHIS-SII...
HELLO, MASTER DELGAL.
(CHUU CHUU)
TRY TO GROW UP MENTALLY TOO.
IF YOU DON'T EAT MORE, YOU WON'T GROW UP BIG AND STRONG.
I PINCHED 'EM FROM THE KITCHEN.
LET'S SPLIT THEM.
WHERE DID YOU JUST ?
DELGAL!
HARD TO BELIEVE, ISN'T IT.
I'M GETTING MARRIED NEXT MONTH.
SISSEL, YOU SHOULD BE THE COURT MAGICIAN!
WHOA!
IT'S OKAY. I'LL PROTECT YOU.
SISSEL.
I'M SCARED OF DYING.
FATHER WAS KILLED.
SO TOGETHER WE'LL ALWAYS—
IT'S ALL RIGHT, DELGAL.


TOGETHER, WE'LL... WHAT WAS IT?
WELL, IT DOESN'T MATTER.
DON
DON

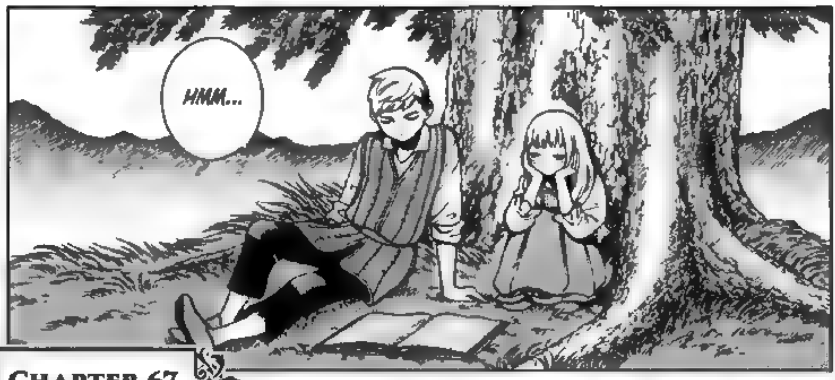



CHAPTER 66: THE END








HMM...

# Chapter 67


...WHY WOULD I BECOME A MONSTER?
WHAT KIND WOULD YOU WANT TO BE, FALIN?
MONSTERS ARE ALL REALLY COOL.
THERE ARE ALL SORTS, HUH.



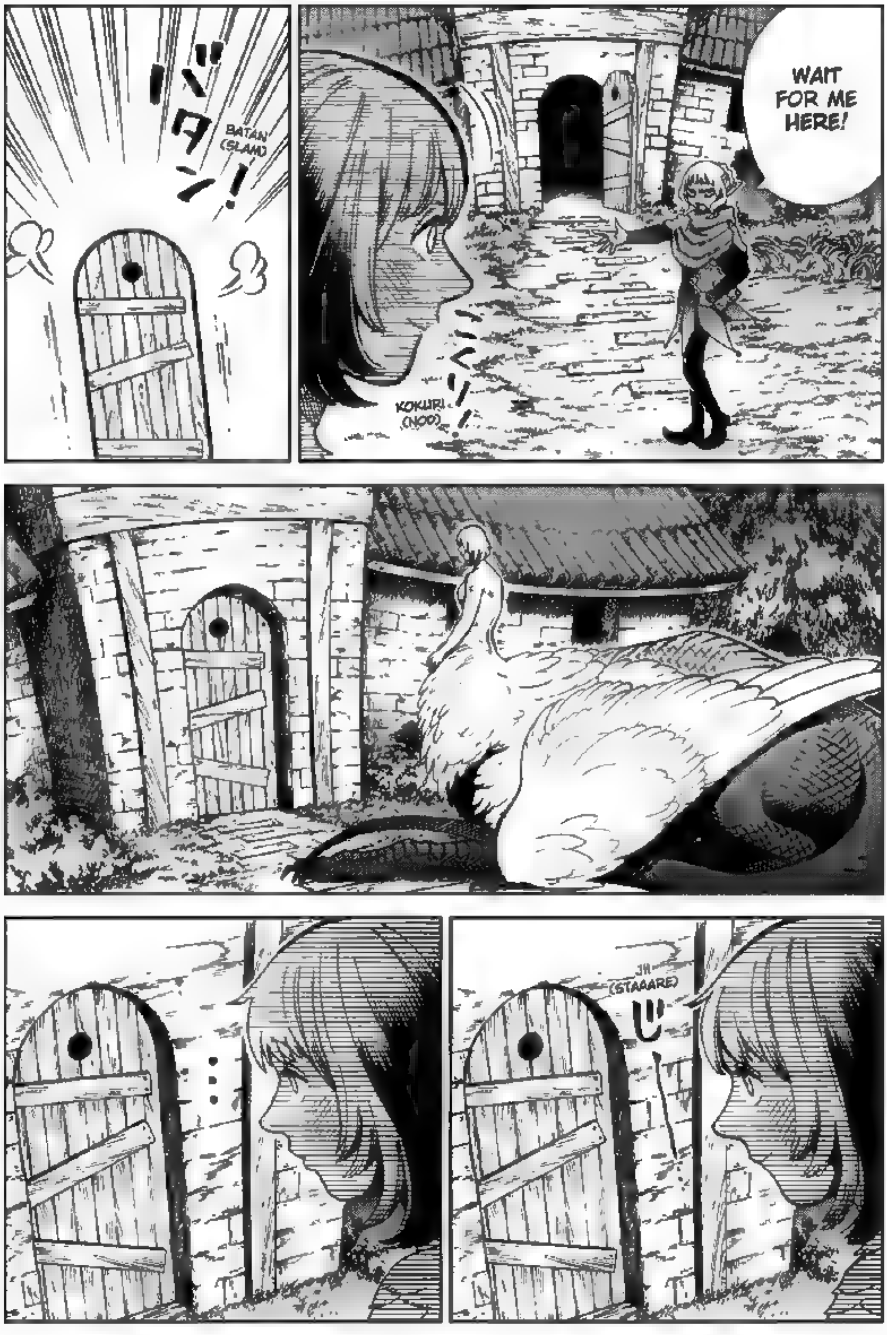

SFX: NEJIRI (TWIST) NEJIRI


THEN IF I BECOME A MONSTER, I'LL CARRY YOU.
BADAN CRAAAH!
YOU'RE NOT DONE!?
AND ALSO BOFF AND DUSTRAG AND...
AND THE SHEEP, AND THE GOATS...
ANOUTOLID
FUCCHI
CAN I BRING ANOUTOLID AND FUCCHI TOO?
S... SURE.
MEOWPI
MUIMUI
CAN MUIMUI AND MEOWPI COME WITH?
SURE.
MEOWPI DECLINES.


...IN THE END, I LEFT YOU BEHIND AND FLED THE VILLAGE.
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO BECAME A MONSTER.
I HAVE ONE REQUEST.
スッ
SU (SHIF)
ギュッ
GYUU (SQUEEZE)
TH-THEY REALLY CAME...
I'LL TAKE CARE OF FALIN.
I DON'T WANT YOU TO HE..P WITH THIS.
HUH?
BUT—

# 67. CURRY -2-




バタン!
BATAN (SLAM)
WAIT FOR ME HERE!
コクリ
KOKURI (NOD)
ジ
(STAAARE)


HRMM...
URO (WANDER)
ウロ
URO
HM...
DOSU (THUD)
ドス
DOSU
DOSU
PUCHI (PLUCK)
プチ
WHAT IS SHE DOING ...?
CHUU
ちゅ
DRINKING THE FLOWERS' NECTAR, I THINK.
THAT WON'T EASE HER HUNGER.
CHUU (SHUUURP)
ちゅー
CHUU
ちゅー
CHUU
ちゅー


HIKU (TWITCH)
HIKU
KUN
KUN (SNIFF)
GASA (RUST)
DO (THUD)
DO
DO
GYURURU (GURRRGLE)


GROOO
PASH! (SMAK)
HWOO...
SLITON (THUMP)


KACHA (CLINK)
カチャ
WAIT HERE.
I WON'T RUN AWAY.
PAKU (NOM)
ぱく
スリ
SURI (SLUDGE)


PAKU
PAKU
PAKU
ぱく
ぱく
ぱく
MOGU
もぐ
MOGU
もぐ
MOGU
MOGU
MOGU (CHEW)
もぐ
もぐ
もぐっ


IGA (SCOOP)
DRINK ME
HFF!
HMF!
DOKU
DOKU (GLUG)
KYUPO (SQUEAK)


OOP!
GUNJI (CONLIG)
くぃぃー
ガ"
ばぁ
GABAA (SHLOOP)
BWAH!
WASHI (SCARF)
わしっ
わしっ
わしっ
WASHI
WASHI


GO (GULP)
CHU (SUCK)
ちゅ
KYUUU (SQUIIIIK)
きゅ




FURARI (TOTTERO)
ふらり
NYAM... NYUM
ンンンンンン!
YOTA
ヨタ
YOTA
ヨタ
YOTA (STAGGER)
ヨタ
MMM...
ストン
SUTON (PLUMP)


ZZZ...
I'LL DO IT.
YEAH.
LAIOS, YOU'RE SURE...?
SHE ACTUALLY FELL ASLEEP...


IF SHE WAKES UP AND FIGHTS, I WON'T STAND A CHANCE.
I HAVE TO AIM FOR A VITAL SPOT AND FINISH HER WITH ONE ATTACK.
A VITAL SPOT...
IN OTHER WORDS, HER HEART AND LUNGS ARE IN THE DRAGON SIDE...
HUMAN SIDE
KIDNEYS?
INTESTINES?
LUNGS?
HEART?
STOMACH?
LIVER?
DRAGON SIDE
...BUT IT WOULD BE HARD TO STRIKE ACCURATELY THROUGH THAT THICK BODY.
WHEN KABUL ATTACKED FALIN EARLIER...
IT'S KABUL.
...THE WOUND WASN'T LETHAL.


WORST-CASE SCENARIO, THE RESURRECTION MAY FAIL, SO I DON'T WANT TO MAKE HER DO IT.
CAN'T.
BUT ONLY MARCILLE'S MAGIC COULD BREAK A DRAGON'S SPINE.
NOPE.
WHAT ABOUT HER SPINE?
HERE
IT'S OBVIOUS WHERE IT IS, AND THAT WOULD DEFINITELY STOP HER FROM MOVING.
EVEN IF SHE CAN'T MOVE, SHE MAY STRIKE BACK.
ON TOP OF THAT, FALIN CAN USE MAGIC.
BRAIN
LOTS OF CHIMERAS HAVE MORE THAN ONE BRAIN, THOUGH.
I CAN'T RISK IT.
IF IT IS WHERE IT SEEMS TO BE AND I HAD A MALLET, THAT COULD WORK.
GA (KRAK)O
WHAT ABOUT HER BRAIN?
THEN WHAT DO I DO?


HER BODY IS ENORMOUS.
I THOUGHT SHE MIGHT HAVE MORE THAN ONE MOUTH, BUT...
SUFFOCATE HER.
...FROM THE WAY SHE ATE, ONE IS ALL SHE HAS.
AAAAH..
GU (GRIP)
GU
GU
ZUSH! (PRESS)
THERE MUST BE A BIG RESPIRATORY TRACT RUNNING THROUGH HER UPPER BODY.
IF I BLOCK HER MOUTH, I'LL BE ABLE TO SUFFOCATE HER.


FALIN...
I RAN FROM ALL SORTS OF THINGS ON MY WAY HERE.
I COULDN'T ACCEPT, AND I COULDN'T FIGHT.
I WAS NEVER PREPARED.
TO TAKE ONE LIFE TO SAVE ANOTHER.
TO LAY MYSELF BARE.
TO LOSE COMPANIONS.
WHEN THE RED DRAGON ATE YOU...
...I STEELED MYSELF FOR THE FIRST TIME.




GU (TILT)
ぐいっ
GA (YANK)
ぐ!!
ん!!
ンンン


ぐぐぐ…
ぐぬ…
ギリ
(GIRI (YANK))
さ
(SHF)
FA...
FALIN.
GARI
ガリ!!
GARI
(CLAW)
ガリ!!
ブチブチ
(RRRIP)
ブチ
GUCHI
(GRIP)
ギチ!


UNH...
KURA (WOOD)
GO (WHUD)
DON (SLAM)
MISHI (CREAK)
MISHI
HNFF!
(GI (STRAIN)






ズズ
ZUZUN
(THOOOM)
LAIOS!
たっ
TA
(DASH)


AH!
YOU CAN LET GO NOW.
SFX: BOKO (BOP) BOKO BOKO
LAIOS!
LAIOS! YOU OKAY!?


FALIN.
フラ
FURA (SWAY)
グっ
GU (PUSH)
I'M SORRY I'M LATE.
I SWEAR I'LL CHANGE YOU BACK.


I'LL HEAL YOU... HOLD STILL.
THANKS.
LAIOS.
I WONDER.
BUT...
HER SOUL HASN'T LEFT...
...SO SHE'S BASICALLY JUST UNCONSCIOUS.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.


ZA (SHF)
MARCILLE, I'M FINALLY PREPARED.
PRE-PARED?
I'M READY TO STEAL AND TO BE STOLEN.
IT'S TIME TO FACE THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN.
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO!
CHAPTER 67: THE END


68. SISSEL -1-


BLITSU!
I'LL BE OVER FAST. THIS IS EASY. IT'S FINE
CALM DOWN. IT'S FINE IT'S ALL RIGHT
BLITSU! (FLUTTER)
YOU'RE FINE. CALM DOWN. NOTHING'S WRONG.
IT'S FINE IT'S FINE. CALM DOWN. IT'S FINE.
SASU (SMOOTH)
.....?
KOTSU (CAK)


DON'T TELL ME...!
DA
DA
DA (TMP)
DA
DA
AH!
WHAT?
PHOENIX
WHAT IN THE WORLD ...?
DIARIES HE'D HIDDEN UNDER THE BED (WITH POEMS)


BUCHI (SNAP)
HAAH...
HAAH...
HAAH...
DON'T CLEAN WITHOUT ASKING !!
THEY WERE THERE FOR A REASON !!
GYUU... (SQUEEZE)
CALM DOWN... IT'S FINE.
HALF OF HIM IS STILL IN HERE.
THE IMPUDENT LITTLE...
DAMN THAT LION.
IT WASN'T ME.


GOOD. ALL THEIR BODIES ARE SAFE...
DELGAL...
...WHERE HAS YOUR SOUL GONE WITHOUT YOUR BODY?
SIGH...


ABOUT 1,000 YEARS AGO...
IS THERE TRULY NOTHING ELSE THAT CAN BE DONE!?
SIGSEL, WHY DO YOU THINK I MADE YOU COURT MAGICIAN?
HEALING WOUNDS AND CURING ILLNESS IS YOUR JOB!
I'VE DONE ALL I CAN.
THERE ISN'T ENOUGH MEDICINE ...
BACK THEN, THIS LAND WAS FILLED WITH MISERY.
STRUCK BY A NATURAL DISASTER, WE WERE STARVING, AND THEN ENEMIES SURROUNDED US.
DELGAL COULDN'T EVEN CALL A DOCTOR TO TREAT HIS SON'S ILLNESS.
ズル...
...I'M SORRY.
NO, THAT'S MY LINE.
HAAAH...


SAVE US, SISSEL.
IF THIS GOES ON, OUR KINGDOM WILL FALL.
MAGIC ISN'T ALL-POWERFUL.
OR TO BLAST ALL OUR ENEMIES AT ONCE?
"BRIZT!" LIKE THAT.
ARE THERE ANY USEFUL SPELLS WE HAVEN'T TRIED?
ONES TO MAKE FOOD, SAY?
...THERE MAY BE A WAY.
WILL YOU COME WITH ME?
HAS THE WINGED LION ABANDONED US...?


...ANCIENT MAGIC?
THAT'S RIGHT, DELGA.
TECHNOLOGY THE ANCIENTS USED TO BUILD THEIR CIVILIZATION.
A DUNGEON LIES UNDER THIS CASTLE.
ANYONE WHO BECOMES ITS MASTER MAY FLY, CREATE GOLD...
...OR EVEN RAISE THE DEAD.
IT SOUNDS LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE, BUT...
...HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT IT?
IN THEORY, ANCIENT MAGIC WOULD ALLOW YOU TO FLY OR RAISE THE DEAD ON THE SURFACE TOO.
IN PRACTICE, THOUGH, IT WOULD TAKE SO MUCH MANA THAT IT'D BE NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE.
IN THE DUNGEON, YOU CAN DRAW OUT...
...NEARLY UNLIMITED MANA!


IS THIS THE RUIN OF AN ANCIENT DWARF TOWN?
WHICH WAS THEN USED AS AN OUTPOST BY THE ANCIENT ELVES, YES.
I'D HEARD THERE WASN'T MUCH LEFT HERE.
NO, THERE'S DEFINITELY SOMETHING HERE.
SOMETHING TO CREATE THE DUNGEON'S LORD.
I THOUGHT I HADN'T SEEN MUCH OF YOU FOR A LONG TIME.
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'D SHUT YOURSELF UP IN HERE?
I WAS SCOURING EVERY INCH OF IT...

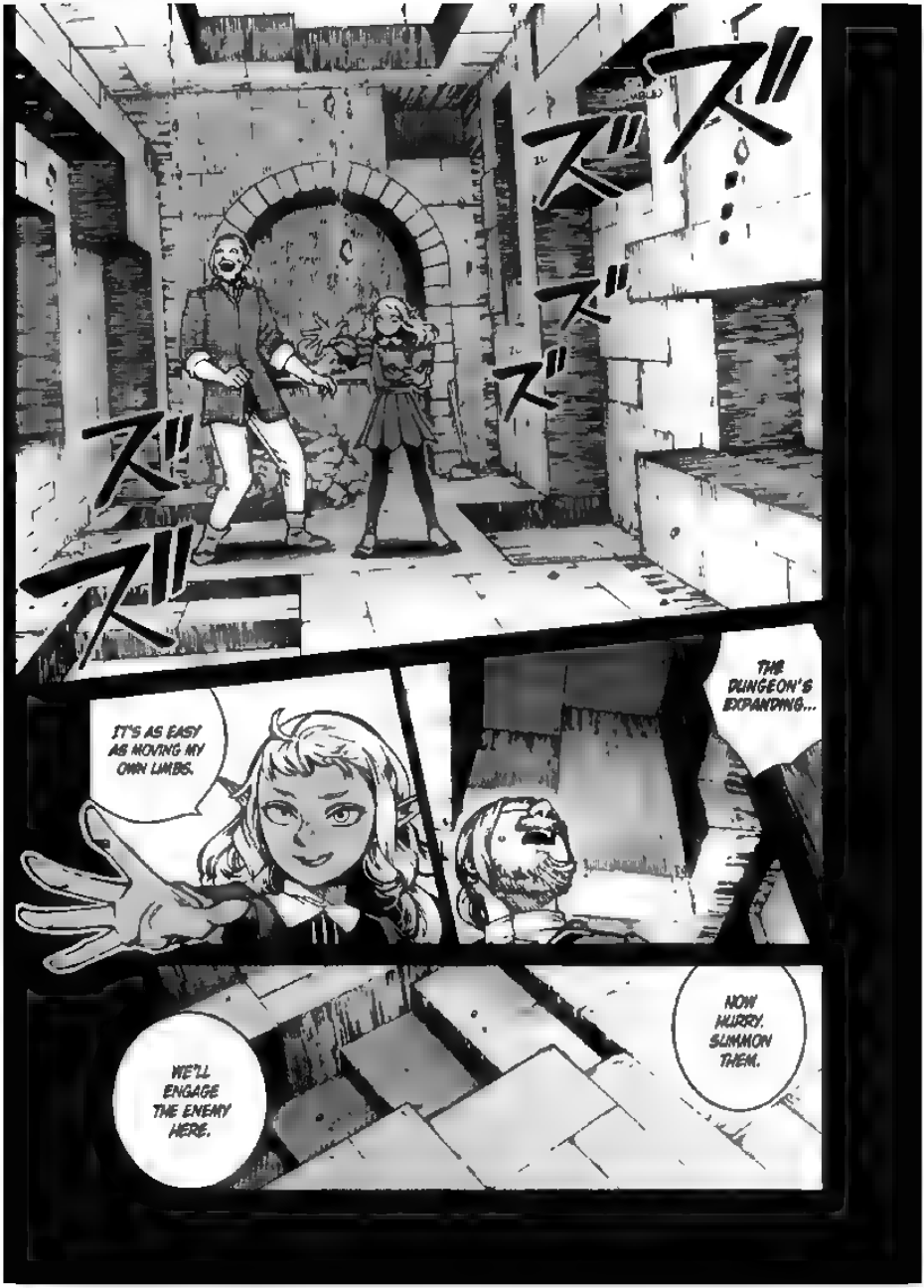

SU GAKO
THIS STATUE ALWAYS STOOD OUT TO ME. I SPENT AGES INVESTIGATING IT.
IT'S A DEAD END.
GARAGA GERAGO
164

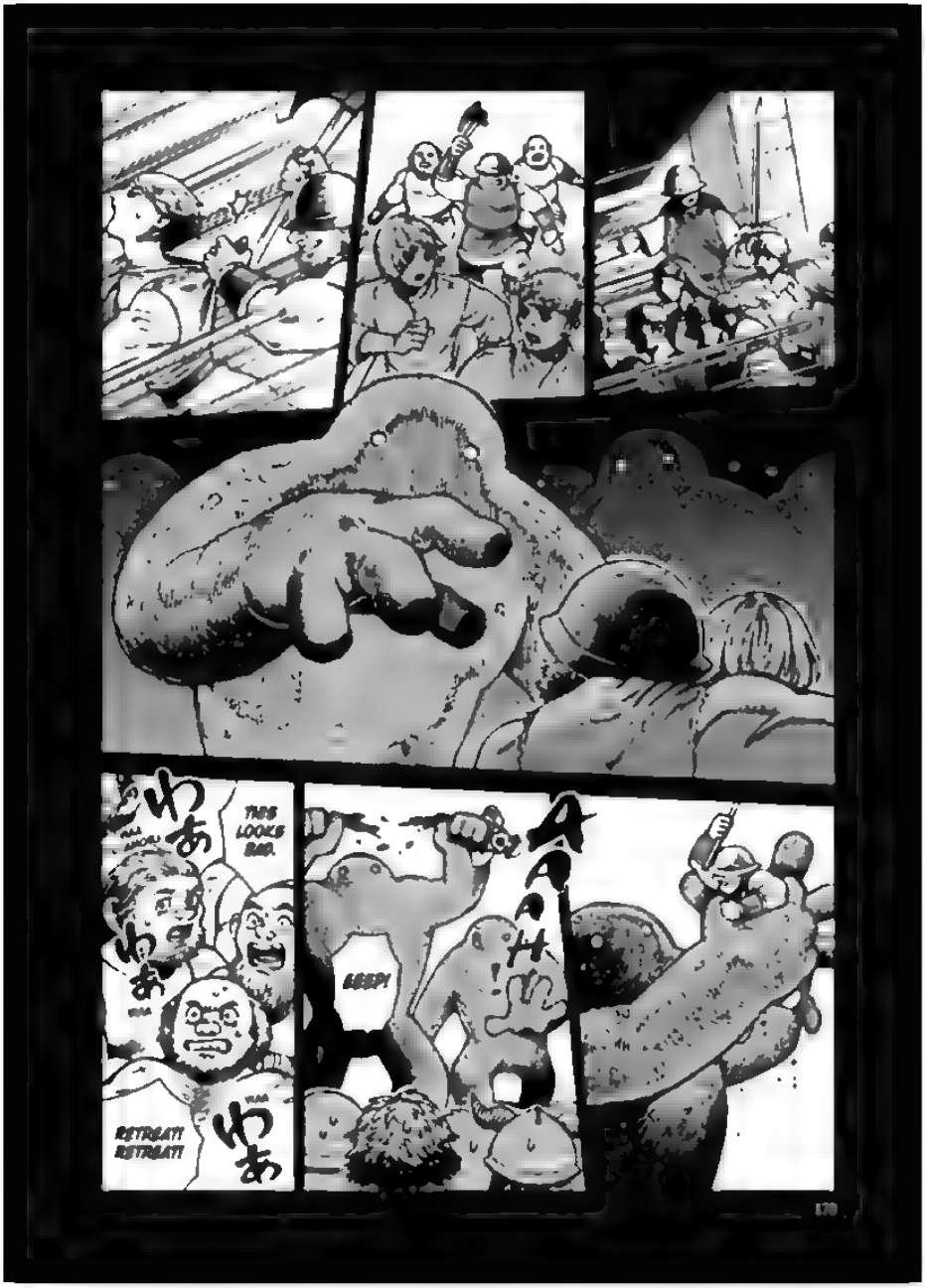

GARA (CLATTER)
ガラ
GARA
ガラ
PARA (CRUMBLE)
ぱら
(GASU) (CHOK)
ガス
GASU
ガス
THAT'S BLASPHEMY!
AAH!
SISSEL?
THAT'S OUR GUARDIAN DEITY...
WAIT. WHAT'S THAT?


ドン
ドーン
WHAT IS YOUR WISH?
MY WISH IS...
GOBLIN CAVE


I WANT THEM TO NEVER AGAIN BE TROUBLED...
...BY ILLNESS, NATURAL DISASTERS, SUDDEN DEATH, OR STARVATION.
I WANT THE PEOPLE OF THIS LAND TO LIVE IN PEACE FOREVER.
VERY WELL.
NEVER AGAIN.


I THOUGHT YOU'D FAINTED ON YOUR FEET.
DELGAL...
AH!
SISSEL !!
WHAT HAPPENED?
EVERYONE?
SUMMON EVERYONE HERE.
EVERYONE IN THE KINGDOM.
I KNOW WHAT WE SHOULD DO.
I...
WILL A CROWD LIKE THAT FIT IN THIS SMALL SPACE?


ズズズ
ズズズ
ズズズ
THE DUNGEON'S EXPANDING...
IT'S AS EASY AS MOVING MY OWN LIMBS.
NOW HURRY. SUMMON THEM.
WE'LL ENGAGE THE ENEMY HERE.

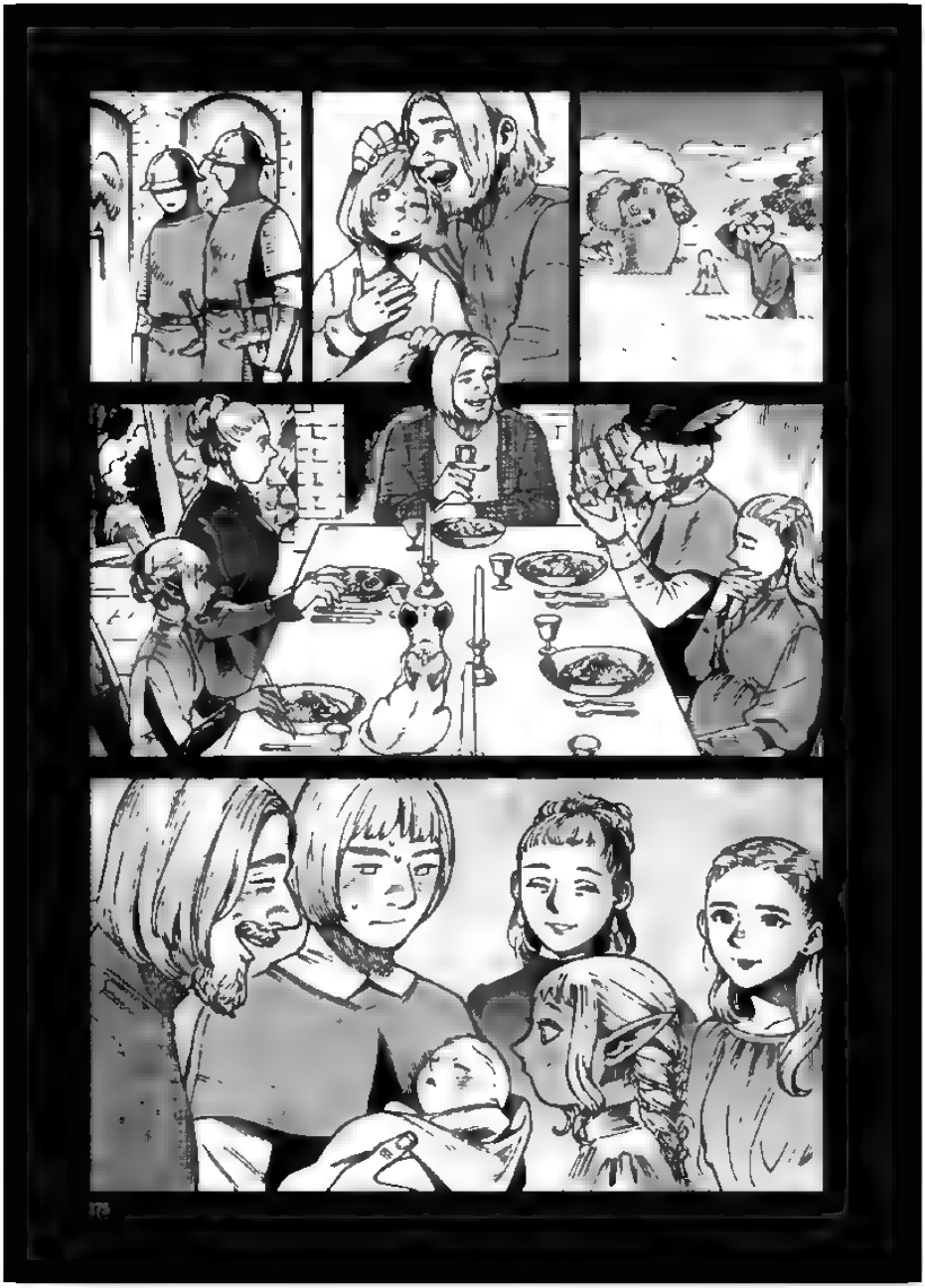

わぁ
THIS LOOKS BAD.
わぁ
わぁ
RETREAT! RETREAT!
AAH!
BEEP!


YOU WON'T GET AWAY...


WHEW...
FURA
FURA (SWAY)
C-COME AWAY FROM THERE.
NOOOO! FATHER!
FATHER! FATHER'S—
OH!
WAAAH!
ムクリ
MUKURI (RISE)


UH...
FATHER !!
YOU PROTECTED ALL OF US!
WELL DONE, SISSEL!!
DON STALLMO
RAAH!
HUZZAH!


I'LL PROTECT EVERYONE.
THAT'S RIGHT.




WE'VE BEEN CLOSED UP IN THIS DUNGEON FOR AGES.
ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME WE RETURNED TO THE SURFACE?
...HUH?
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
...
IF I LEAVE...
...WHAT HAPPENS?
IF HE LEAVES IT...
BESIDES, THE DUNGEON'S POWER IS WHAT'S KEEPING YOUR SON ALIVE.
I CAN'T PROTECT YOU OUTSIDE!
N-NO, WE CAN'T!
I EVEN MADE YOU A BLUE SKY, AND STILL YOU...
...HOW DARE YOU?
REFLECT FOR A MOMENT ON WHAT YOU'VE [redacted]!
THAT'S "CONTROL"!
BODIO!
ARE YOU TELLING ME I'M STUCK HERE FOREVER?
IN THIS GLOOMY SUBTERRANEAN WORLD YOU CONTROL!


...AND YOU JUST KEEP MAKING MORE MONSTERS.
WHEN PEOPLE OPPOSE YOU, YOU DRAG THEM AWAY.
YOU USE STRANGE MAGIC...
HAH!
THE GREATEST DANGER TO THIS KINGDOM IS YOU!
I'M JUST DOING WHAT IT TAKES TO PROTECT ALL OF YOU!
DON'T BE A FOOL!
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO, SISSEL?
DO YOU THINK YOU'RE A GOD?
AS IF...
LET'S GO.
AS IF I'D LET YOU!!
I'M TAKING EVERYONE AND LEAVING.
I WANT TO SHOW YAAD THE OUTSIDE WORLD.


I'LL SPLIT YOUR SOUL AND BODY FOR A WHILE.
COOL YOUR HEAD!
EEEEK
HUH?
BATTERS OPPONENT
ばったり
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE...
... SHIGE!?
OH...
HA-HA! I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE SAYING!


ANOTHER THING DAY...
THEY'RE ALL SELFISH.
I'VE BLOCKED THE PATHS TO THE SURFACE, BUT INVADERS KEEP GETTING IN.
I'LL HAVE TO EXPAND THE DUNGEON, MAKE MORE MONSTERS, SET MORE TRAPS.
WHY NOT HOLD A FESTIVAL FOR A CHANGE OF PACE?
IF I DID THAT I WOULD BE DISTRACTED IF ANYTHING WENT WRONG.
BUT—
THEY'RE ALL FRUSTRATED, WITH NO OUTLET FOR IT.
YOU'VE BEEN A REAL PAIN LATELY.
SAY ANY MORE AND I'LL SEAL YOUR MOUTH.
.....
WHY ARE THINGS GOING SO BADLY?
I JUST WANT TO PROTECT
I THINK I'M FORGETTING SOMETHING...


SIGH...
DELGAL...
WHERE ARE YOU NOW?
PRES-ENT DAY
PYON OKAY!
NOW'S MY CHANCE!


STOP!!
BI (JAB)
TITARIN (HALT)
WHO'S YOUR NEXT TARGET?
WAIT, LET ME GUESS.
YOU LED THE INTRUDERS HERE.
YOU STIRRED THEM UP, MADE THEM GET IN MY WAY.
WINGED LION...
SO THIS WAS ALL YOUR DOING.


IT'S THAT INSOLENT TALL-MAN, ISN'T IT.
OR POSSIBLY THE FEMALE HALF-ELF?
WHO ELSE? IS THAT DWARF WHO'S LIVED HERE FOR AGES A CANDIDATE TOO?
JUST THE TYPE YOU LIKE.
HMPH! ALL HALF-ELVES ARE MEEK, STUPIDLY HONEST, AND GREEDY! THEY'RE EASILY LED.
LIAR!! EVERY-THING YOU SAY IS A LIE!!
I CERTAINLY AM FOND OF LAIOS, MARCILLE, AND THE REST, BUT...
...THAT'S BECAUSE THEY'LL SAVE YOU—
ARE YOU GOING TO INSTALL MULTIPLE LORDS NEXT TIME?
THAT'S A FINE IDEA.


FUWA (FLOAT)
SISSEL, STOP.
ENOUGH OF THIS.
QUIET!! SHUT UP, SHUT UP, SHUT UP!!
YOU WON'T GET AWAY!!
YOUR POWER IS STILL MINE!!


DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DHUD


DOSU (SHUNK)
ドス
DOSU
ドス
DOSU
ドス
BOTE (PLOP)
ボテ
BA (YANK)
GUI (TUG)


YOU'RE THE ONE WHO HID DELGAL, AREN'T YOU?
ZUN (STOMP)
THEN WHAT ABOUT EODIO'S ?
DELGAL WENT TO THE SURFACE IN HIS SON'S BODY SO YOU WOULDN'T NOTICE.
HIS BODY'S STILL HERE.
LIAR.
GURI (GRIND)
NO...
HE LEFT OF HIS OWN FREE WILL.
GURI (GRIND)
GIRI
HE DID IT TO SAVE EVERY-ONE!
THAT INCLUDES YOU, SISSEL!
DELGAL KNEW IT WOULD HAPPEN, AND HE WENT ANY-WAY!
THE MOMENT EODIO'S BODY WENT OUTSIDE, IT CRUMBLED...
...AND DELGAL'S SOUL VAN-ISHED.


SHUT UP!!


HA
HA!
AH
HA
HA
HA
KUH
KUH
HA!
HA...
HA!
HA
HA






69. Sissel -2-


I HAVE TO BECOME THE LORD OF THE DUNGEON.
...BUT WE CAN'T EAT ALL OF IT OUR-SELVES.
WE ALSO CAN'T TAKE THE BODY CLOSE TO THE SURFACE WHERE WE'D FIND PEOPLE.
KILLING FALIN HERE HAS ONLY MADE OUR PLAN MORE DIFFICULT.
WE'D HOPED TO RESURRECT HER AFTER EATING THE DRAGON PARTS...
CONNECT
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO MOVE THIS PLACE UP TO THE SURFACE.
WE ARE HERE
BUT THE WINGED LION SAID...
...THE DUNGEON'S LORD CAN CHANGE THE DUNGEON AT WILL.


I DON'T THINK THAT'S TRUE...
...AND THE "BEST BY" DATE.
FROM HERE ON, WE'LL BE FIGHTING BOTH SISSEL...
TO SAVE FALIN, I HAVE TO BECOME THE DUNGEON'S LORD.
HE'LL CURB SISSEL'S POWER FOR US.
THE WINGED LION IS ON OUR SIDE.
HE GOT UP GOOD LAST TIME.
CAN WE REALLY BEAT HIM BY SWINGING STICKS AROUND?
THE OTHER GUY'S THE CURRENT LORD.
CARE-FULLY, OKAY? GO EASY...
LET'S GO.
GII (BREAK)
THERE'S NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO.
WE'VE EATEN AND SLEPT WELL EVERY DAY.


(CREEEEAK)
HUH?


WHAT TERRIBLE MANNERS!
THE WINGED LION LOST!


YOU KILLED MY DRAGON AGAIN.
THAT'S NOT ALL.
YOU'VE BEEN KILLING, COOKING, AND EATING THE MONSTERS.
AND YOU MESSED UP MY HOUSE.
YOU'RE ALWAYS LIKE THAT.
YOU ALWAYS STEAL FROM ME...
GRUBBY, GREEDY...
THIS TIME, I'LL CRUSH YOU TO A PASTE. I WON'T LEAVE A SINGLE SHRED OF FLESH.
EVERYONE, STAY CLOSE TO ME!!
DIE!!!
BA (PWT?)


ズン
GOTSU
GOKU
GHK...
OH...
OHHH...

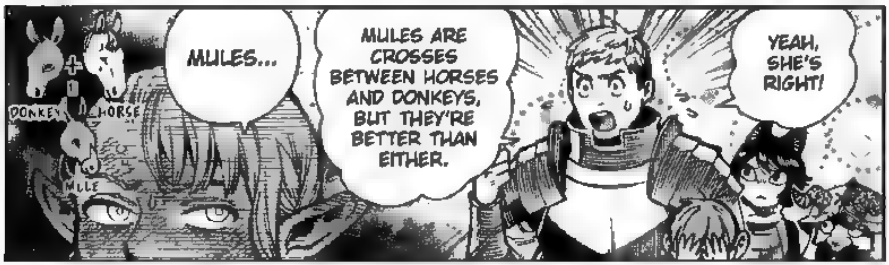

WE DIDN'T COME HERE TO HARM YOU!
JUST HEAR US OUT!
TCH!
SIS-SEL!!
AH HA HA
YOU WANT TO TALK?
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH. I KNOW WHAT YOU WANT.
HEH HEH.
HEAR YOU...?
POOR, FOOLISH, LITTLE HALF-ELF GIRL..
YOU'LL LIVE AND DIE AS A HALF-MADE THING.
YOU WANT TO STEAL THE DUN-GEON'S POWER...
...AND BECOME A FULL ELF, I'LL BET.


HALF...
...ELF?
YOU'RE AN ELF AND TALL-MAN HALF-BREED, AREN'T YOU.
HYBRIDS OF LONG- AND SHORT-LIVED RACES ARE A TOTAL FAILURE AS A SPECIES.

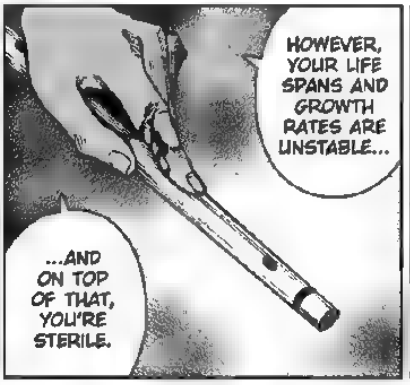

ELVES HAVE THIS DELUSION...
...THAT ALL RACES IDOLIZE THEM BY DEFAULT.
IT'S EMBARRASSING. I REALLY WISH THEY'D QUIT.
BOSO CHUCHUD
MARCILLE! DON'T!
HUH?

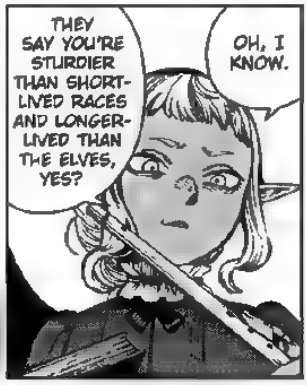

...UM, EXCUSE ME!
I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO DESIRE TO BECOME A FULL ELF, THANK YOU!!


MODERN RESEARCH HAS SHOWN THAT COMPARED TO PURE-BLOODED INDIVIDUALS FROM LONG-LIVED RACES...
...HAVING SOME BLOOD FROM A SHORT-LIVED RACE MAKES YOU MORE CAPABLE!


MULES...
MULES ARE CROSSES BETWEEN HORSES AND DONKEYS, BUT THEY'RE BETTER THAN EITHER.
YEAH, SHE'S RIGHT!
DONKEY
HORSE
MULE


JUST LIKE A MULE—
BASH (WHAP)
OW!


HOWEVER, YOUR LIFE SPANS AND GROWTH RATES ARE UNSTABLE...
...AND ON TOP OF THAT, YOU'RE STERILE.

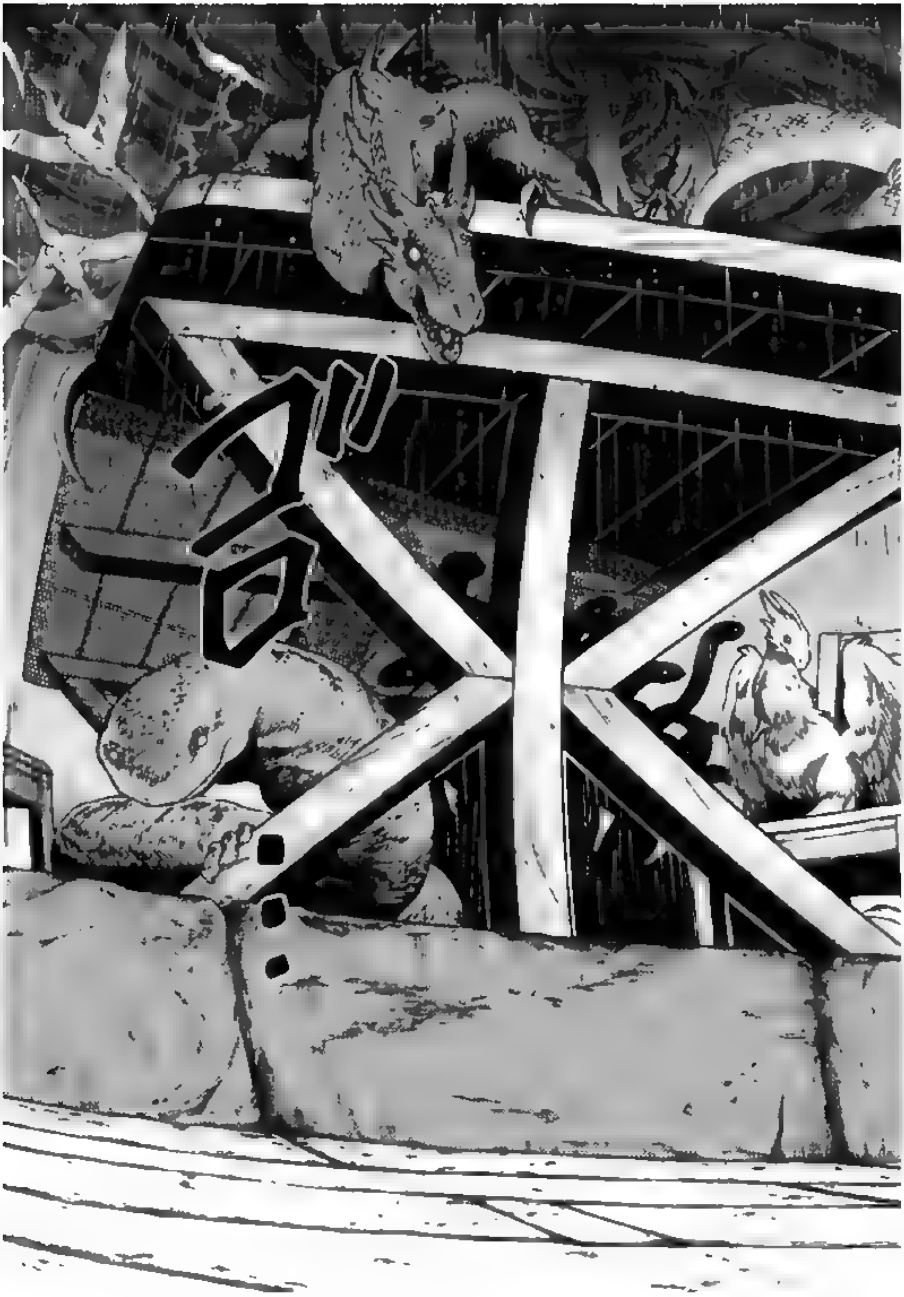

THEY SAY YOU'RE STURDIER THAN SHORT-LIVED RACES AND LONGER-LIVED THAN THE ELVES, YES?
OH, I KNOW.

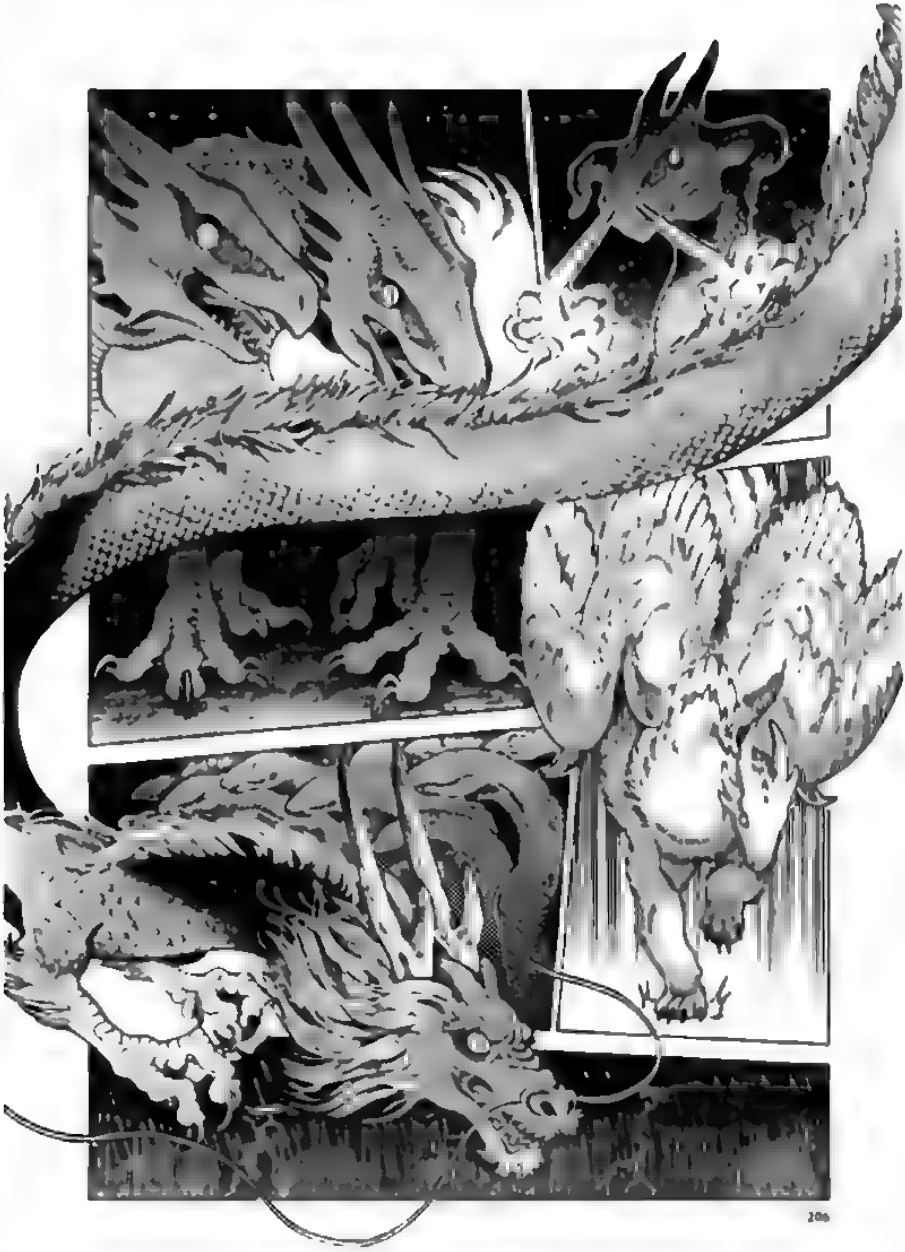

HALF-BREEDS CAN'T LIVE IN THE SAME TIME AS ANY OTHER RACE.
DOES THAT TERRIFY YOU?
A CENTURY FROM NOW, YOU'LL BE ALL ALONE AT YOUR DINNER TABLE.
DO YOU WANT TO CHANGE THAT FATE WITH THE DUNGEON'S POWER?
NUH ...!!
THAT'S ...!!
RIGHT. NEVER MIND.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT YOUR AMBITIONS.
I'M BUSY.
TAKE THAT!
チョイ
CHOI (FLICK)


GURA WOBBLE
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHAT NOW?
WAH!
GURA
GURA
GURA
HUH!?
HE MADE THE KITCHEN HUGE.
NO, LOOK!
HE'S THE SAME SIZE.
SO...
...DID WE SHRINK?


GOLIN
GOLIN
GOLIN
IF YOU WANT TO KILL AND EAT DRAGONS THAT BADLY...
...I'LL GIVE YOU PLENTY OF THEM!!
I CAN'T SEE...
IT'S RAIN-ING!?
ZA (RAIN SOUND)
POTSU (DRIP)
POTSU
PIKA (FLASH)



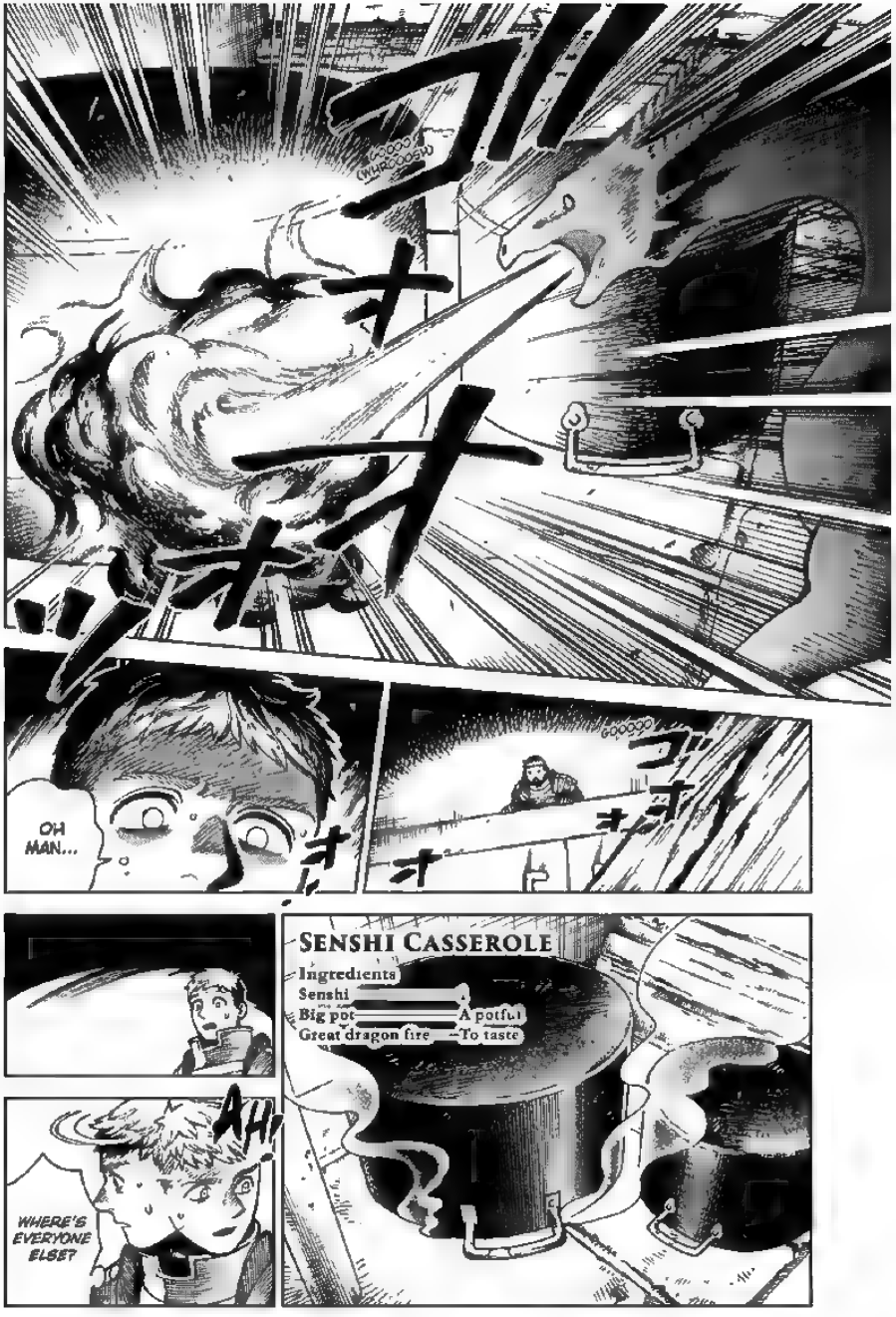





IT'S A TON OF DRAGONS !!
WH- WHAT IS THIS.. ?
...DRAG- ONS.
GREEN DRAGONS, A RED DRAGON...
WURMS AND WYVERNS ...
...AND EVEN AN EASTERN DRAGON! THAT'S THE ONE WHO CALLED THE STORM!
THIS IS NO TIME FOR COMMEN- TARY!
HERE THEY COME!
RULUN !!


GREEN DRAGONS...
THEY'RE QUICK AND AGILE.
WE'LL NEVER ESCAPE BY RUNNING.
KYU (QUICK)
IN THAT CASE...
THEY'RE OBSESSED WITH GOLD, SILVER, AND TREASURE.
EVERY-ONE, UP HERE!
IF WE CAN DISTRACT THEM WITH THE SILVERWARE...!


YORO (STAGGER)
UU!
HEAVY!
GREAT! IT'S PURE SILVER!
BA (LUNGE)
HM?
SENSHI, NO! DON'T RUN INTO A SMALL SPACE—


(WHOOSH)
OH MAN...
SENSHI CASSEROLE
Ingredients
Senshi
Big pot
Great dragon fire
A potful
To taste
AH!
WHERE'S EVERYONE ELSE?


AAAAAAAH!!
DO (THUD) DO
WE'LL GET AWAY IN THE SINK.
FORTU-NATELY, THEY'RE SLOW.
IZUTSUMI, THAT'S A RED DRAGON!
THEY DON'T HAVE WINGS, BUT THEY BREATHE FIRE.
CHIL-CHUCK, DOWN... DOWN THERE!!
HUH?
CHI—
HA HAAA! HOW D'YA LIKE THAT!?
GA (SHOVE)
WE'LL PUSH...
...THIS DISH IN...
DOPON (SPLOSH)
...LIKE SO!


BASHAAA
(SPLOOOSH)
GOOO
(BLUB)
コポポ
GOBO
(BLUB)
ゴボボ
ガボボ
GABO
(BLUB)
ボボボ
DOBON
(BLOOSH)
ドボン


DAMMIT! WHAT'S GOING ON—
PTOO! PTOO!
SALTY...
KOFF! KOFF!
BLEH!
IT'S SEA-WATER ...!?
BWAH!
MOSA (FLOOF)
もさっ?
UH...?


KO (SHIWOO)
ドゥ
ドゥ
ドゥ


A LEVIATHAN AND A WHITE DRAGON!?
THOSE AREN'T CREATURES SO MUCH AS DISASTERS.
IT WOULD TAKE MORE THAN GOOD EATING TO DEAL WITH THEM.
BASHA (SPLASH)
CHIL-CHUCK ...!
IZU-TSUMI!
I CAN SLIP PAST THE DRAGONS, GET TO SISSEL...
...AND ATTACK HIM DIRECTLY!
NO, THINK.
IT'S ALL RIGHT. WE CAN STILL TURN THIS AROUND.
WE CAN RESURRECT THE OTHERS AFTER THAT...
SHE HAS TO STAY SOME-WHERE SAFE...
WHERE'S MARCILLE!?
IF SHE DIES, NOBODY'S COMING BACK.
AH!
MAR-CILLE...


A BLAST...
MAR-CILLE!?
DOKAAAN
GABUUUUND
!!!
BOBON
GBABLAND
STAY BACK!!
DON
GBOOND
!!!
THAT'S A...
YOU'RE JUST TELLING IT WHERE YOU ARE!
THEIR EYES HAVE ALMOST ATRO-PHIED...
DON'T CAST EXPLO-SIVE SPELLS, MAR-CILLE!
SHU...
SHUUU
GHEEEE
IT'S A WURM !!
THEY LIVE IN DARK CAVES AND SPIT POISON-OUS GAS.


BUFUO
(BWOOMF)
BGH!
Uu...
KOFF!
KOFF!
NERVE-CLIPPED MARCILLE
Ingredients
Marcille 1
Wurm secretions A moderate amount
ばったり
BATTAR.
(FWUMP)


WHA...?
GA (GRAB)
AH HA HA!
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO HAVE MONSTERS COOK YOU?
REJOICE! I'LL HAVE THE DRAGONS CONSUME YOU COMPLETELY!
GIVING THANKS FOR YOUR LIVES!


HA HA HA HA
AAH
HA
HA HA!
NOT FAIR...
AFTER WE CAME ALL THIS WAY...
IT'S NOT FAIR.
IS THIS HOW IT ALL ENDS?
GAPAA (GAPE)


OH...
KREE!
GRRR!
GABU!
BOTE
PLOP!
THEY MAY BE LEGENDARY, THEY MAY BE DISASTERS...
...BUT DRAGONS ARE STILL ANIMALS!!
THEY'RE LIVING CREATURES.

# Translation Notes

**Page 5**
Confit is a cooking method where food is cooked in grease, oil, or sugar water at a lower temperature and for a longer time than deep-frying would require.

**Page 214**
Ruibe is an Ainu dish made of raw seafood that's frozen outdoors, sliced like sushimi, and served with water peppers.

**Page 217**
Nerve-clipping is a method used to make caught fish taste fresher longer by destroying their brain and spinal cord soon after (or even before) death, which delays the onset of rigor mortis.

**Page 223**
Brood patches are spots of bare skin that develop on the belly of the females of most bird species during the nesting season. Feathers prevent the eggs from staying warm enough, so they are temporarily shed or plucked out by the birds to allow the skin to warm the eggs directly.

*To be continued...*


A
IT'S A SIGN THAT THE DUNGEON'S LORD IS LOSING THEIR MIND.
Q
...WHY IS THAT?
WHEN HUMAN-MONSTER CHIMERA APPEAR, THAT DUNGEON IS ON THE BRINK.
MISC. MONSTER TALES
CHIMERA
10
STRONG MONSTERS
NASTY TRAPS
EXECUTIO
AS PUBLIC EXAMPLES
DEATH
FOES
...BUT THE PRESSURE OF RULING GROWS, AND THEY CARE LESS AND LESS ABOUT AP-PEARANCES.
KILL
PEOPLE I LOVE
LOOKS WONDERFUL!
RESOLVE CONFLICTS PEACEFULLY, IF I CAN
IDEALS
AT FIRST, LORDS DESIGN THEIR DUNGEONS WITH HIGH HOPES AND ASPIRA-TIONS...
DREAMS
THAT'S WHY IT'S TROUBLE.
I SEE...
ODDS ARE GOOD THAT THE DUNGEON'S LORD IS RAMPAGING.
CHIMERA WITH HUMAN HEADS AND MONSTER BODIES ARE A QUICK-FIX SOLUTION.
...BUT NOT BEING ABLE TO COMMUNI-CATE IS INCONVE-NIENT.
??
THEY WANT STRONG MON-STERS AROUND FOR PROTEC-TION...
TRUE.
THAT TYPE IS UNHINGED TO BEGIN WITH, SO THEY'RE STILL BAD NEWS.
YOU REALLY CAN'T GENERA-IZE.
BUT COULDN'T THERE BE SOME LORDS WHO CREATE CHIMERA ALL ALONG, WITH THEIR IDEALS INTACT?
WOW!
THAT'S SO COOL


A THICK TRACHEA AND ESOPHAGUS TAKE UP MOST OF HER HUMAN HALF.
AS SMART AS FALIN
This is Chimera Falin!!
SIX LIMBS
VOCAL CORDS ARE COMPRESSED, SO SHE CAN'T SPEAK WELL
HAS A BROOD PATCH FOR INCUBATING EGGS
CAN'T REALLY FLY. WINGS HELP SLOW HER FALL.
A BIT SMALLER AND MORE STYLISH THAN THE RED DRAGON
HAS A FUEL SAC, BUT NO ORGAN TO IGNITE IT, SO CAN'T BREATHE FIRE
HALF HER BODY IS COVERED IN FEATHERS TO KEEP HER TEMPERATURE STABLE.
SISSEL'S ORDERS ARE TOP PRIORITY.
I DON'T REALLY WANT TO MAKE ANY.
CHI-MERA?
THOUGH THEY ARE COOL.
YES. FOR EXAMPLE...
I DIDN'T WANT FALIN TO END UP LIKE THIS.
ME EITHER.
RED DRAGONS ARE LONG-LIVED, BUT I DOUBT ONE COULD LIVE LONG WITH A BUILD LIKE THIS.
IT'LL STARVE OR LOSE ORGAN FUNCTION.
THERE'S A LOT OF WASTE IN CHIMERA.
UH, WHAT I?
ACTUALLY, MAYBE IT'S BETTER THIS WAY
BROTHER
BIG BRO!
FEMALE
IF THERE WERE MALES AND FEMALES, THEY COULD BREED.
WAAH!!
MAKE HER A BIT SMALLER.
WITHOUT FRONT LEGS, SHE'D BE LIGHTER AND COULD FLY FARTHER.
...JUST HAVING A BIG MOUTH IN HER TORSO WOULD HELP A LOT.
GET RID OF THOSE SCANTY FEATHERS OR COVER HER ENTIRELY

# 10

## DELICIOUS IN DUNGEON

## RYOKO KUI

**Translation: Taylor Engel** **Lettering: Abigail Blackman**

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DUNGEON
RYOKO KUI


11
Delicious
DUNGEON
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# Delicious in Dungeon



Ryoko Kui

11

# Delicious in Dungeon

11

*Contents*

*Chapter 70* **SISSEL -3-** 005
*Chapter 71* **SISSEL -4-** 039
*Chapter 72* **SISSEL -5-** 063
*Chapter 73* **BAVAROIS** 093
*Chapter 74* **LIRICMUMWAREI** 121
*Chapter 75* **LORD OF THE DUNGEON -1-** 145
*Chapter 76* **LORD OF THE DUNGEON -2-** 177
*Bonus* **MISCELLANEOUS MONSTER TALES -11-** 212




70. Sissel -3-
Laios
Status: In crisis
Sissel
Status: Mad
Chilchuck
Status: Dead
Marcille
Status: Dead
Senshi
Status: Dead
Izutsumi
Status: Dead


THE DRAGONS STARTED FIGHTING ONE ANOTHER ...!!
GR
GRRA
WR
WELL, SURE.
THAT MAKES SENSE.
DRAGONS ARE THE STRONGEST LIVING CREATURES.
THEIR ONLY NATURAL THREAT IS OTHER DRAGONS.


WITH SO MANY IN THE SAME PLACE, THIS WAS INEVITABLE...!
NO WONDER YOU NEVER SEE BIG FLIGHTS OF DRAGONS.
OH RIGHT THEY'RE A TYPE OF DRAGON.
IN ANY CASE I'M SAVED—
GU!
WHAT ARE NIGHTMARES DOING HERE..?
SHELLS


HUH?
AH.
GAH!
AH!
NO.
CAN'T MOVE


バクリ
BAKURI (CHOMP)
.....!
FLRA
EEP...
I BROKE A RIB..
KOFF!
THIS ARMOR'S HAD IT...
HGH...
OEEF
ヨロ
ヨロ


IDEALLY, THE DRAGONS WILL KEEP TAKING EACH OTHER OUT, BUT...
AND OF COURSE I'M THE WEAKEST ONE HERE.
WHAT A NASTY BATTLE ROYAL.
KACHA COMBO
KACHA
OOOH!
SILVER!
JESUS CRIST !!


YOU FOOLS!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING !!?
DO AS I SAY!
I TOLD YOU TO KILL THAT MAN!
SUMMONED MONSTERS ARE STRONG BUT UNPREDICTABLE...
TCH!
GO!!


DAMNIT...
I GUESS THAT WAS TOO MUCH TO HOPE FOR.
GUH
GUH
GUH


KOFF!


NOW IT'S PLAY-ING...
JUST KILL HIM!
BACHI
BACHI
BACHI
BACHI
GORO
GORO
GORO
GORO...
GORO


ドサ
DOSA (WHUMP)
?
??
KINN (CYWEERD)
PUSHUU (FOOOSH)


I DON'T REALLY GET IT. BUT—
THE EASTERN DRAGON'S LIGHTNING HIT THE GREEN DRAGON...!?
SHUU (FIZZLE)


DAMMIT! DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!!
KILL HIM, DRAG-ONS !!
THAT'S A BIG HELP!!
DAA CRASH
あっ


ドドド

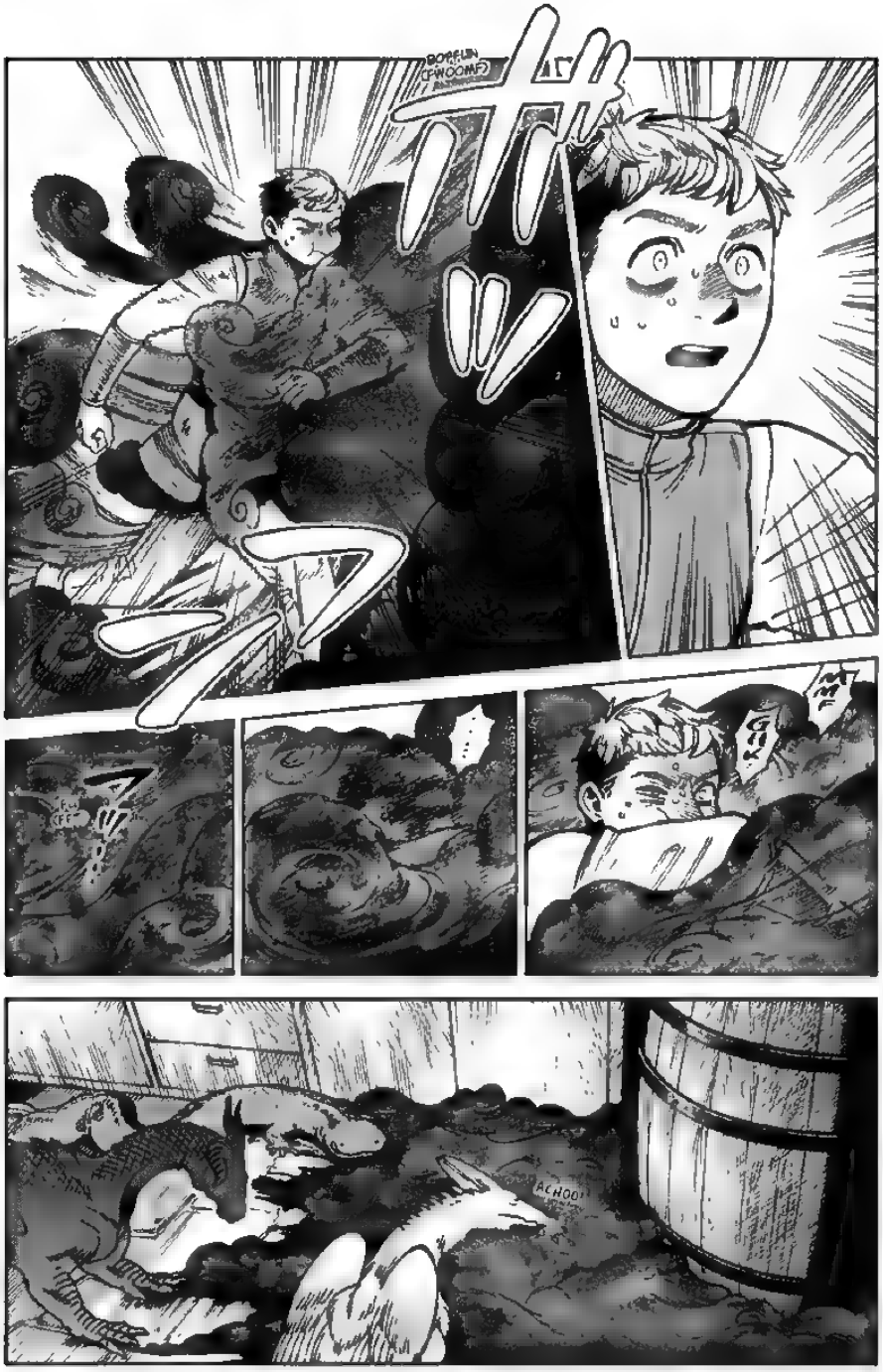

WHERE SHOULD I RUN!?
KENSUKE'S SCARED, AND I CAN'T DRAW HIM.
A DEAD END!
BAN (BAM)


DON (THUD)
AH HA HA HA HA!
AS IF I'D LET YOU GO, YOU FOOL!
GIVE UP AND DIE!
DO YOU WANT THE RED DRAGON ... ...TO BURN YOU TO A CINDER?
HOW ABOUT A PAINFUL DEATH BY WURM POISON?
OR SHALL THE WHITE DRAGON SUFFOCATE AND FREEZE YOU?


HERE, I'LL EVEN LET YOU CHOOSE.
WHICH DRAGON DO YOU WANT TO KILL YOU?
...REALLY?
TCH!
I'VE CHANGED MY MIND.
YOU...
YOU'RE DEEPLY UNPLEASANT.


GO, DRAGONS!
KILL HIM!!
...WILL DIE BY ALL THEIR BREATHS COMBINED!!
I'LL MAKE SURE THERE'S NOTHING LEFT OF YOU!!
GHK!


—HUH?
PATHETIC.
AS IF A SHEATHED SWORD COULD DAMAGE DRAGON HIDE!
HA!
AAAAAA
(CRASH)
GET HIM!
BUKUL
BUKUL (BLOOD)
AH HA!
HAS HE LOST HIS MIND?
CHARGING DRAGONS EMPTY-HANDED...


BOFFLIN (PHOOMF)
ACHOO!


HE RAN INTO THE POISON ON HIS OWN!
MORON, MORON, MOOOO-RON!
AH HA HA HA HA!
HEH!
THE PITIFUL END OF YOUR HOPES?
DID YOU SEE IT, LION!?
AH-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!
THIS POISON CAN PERMEATE YOUR SKIN TOO!
DID YOU THINK YOU'D BE SAFE IF YOU HELD YOUR BREATH?
HM?
PIKU
I TOLD YOU TO ALL ATTACK AT ONCE!
WHY DID YOU TWO SLACK OFF?
THAT COULD HAVE BEEN MUCH MORE OF A SPEC-TACLE!
HAAAH... HAH...
...HEY.

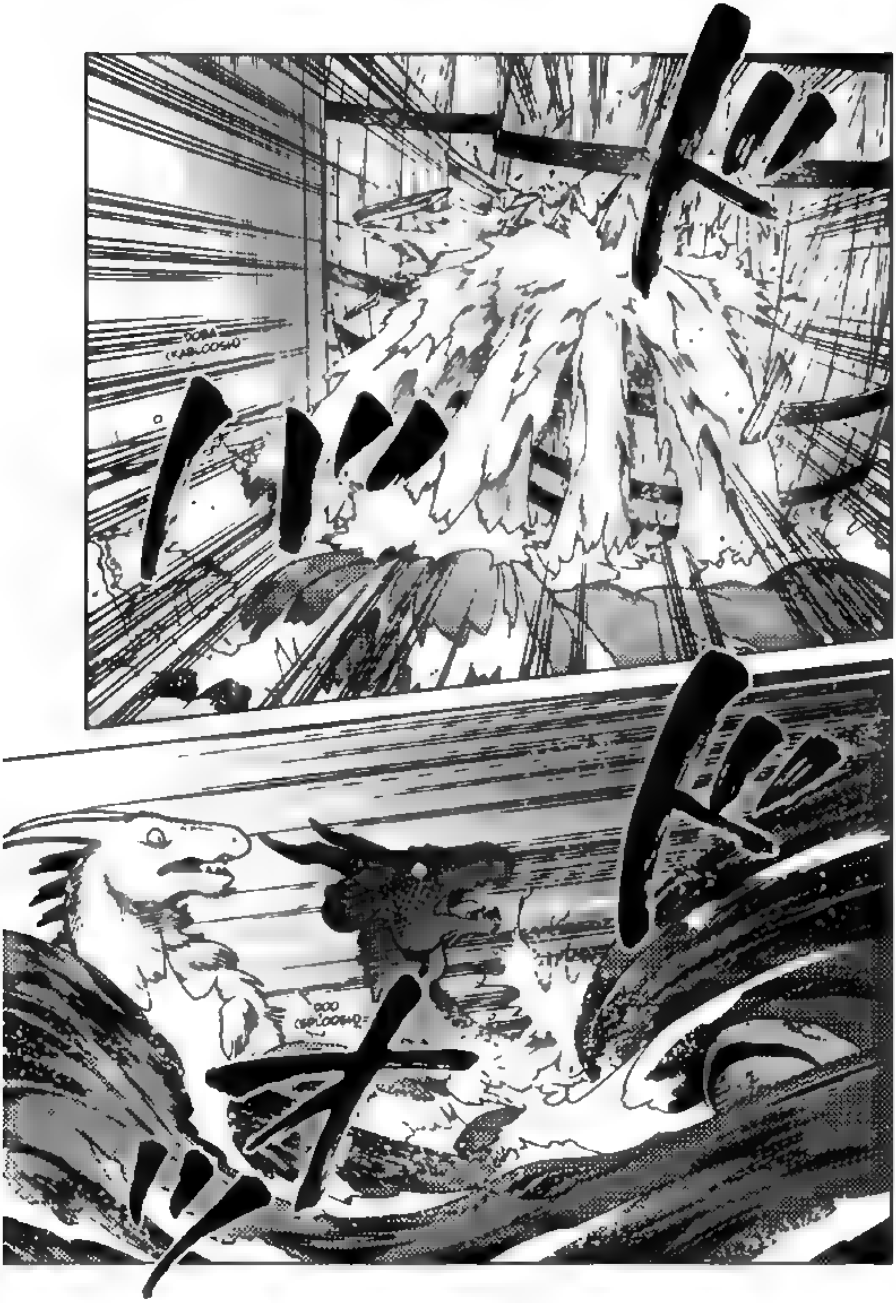

もぞ…
もぞ…
MOZO (SQUIRM)
ふら…
FURA (SWAY)
FURA
ふら…
…LOOK AT THAT.
HE'S STILL ALIVE?
THESE PAST THOUSAND YEARS…
…I'VE HAD ALL SORTS OF INTRUDERS, BUT…
…NONE WERE AS STUBBORN AND IRRITATING AS YOU.
YURA
ユラ…
ユラ…
YURA (WOBBLE)
WHAT DESIRE IS DRIVING YOU?
SU (SHF)
ス…
THIS TIME, I'LL TURN YOU TO DUST.


BLOW THAT NUISANCE AWAY RIGHT THIS MINUTE!!
RED DRAGON! WHITE DRAGON!!


DO
GROOO
HIIIIT
HNOAA!




DON'T TELL ME...
...HE WAS PLANNING TO TAKE THEM OUT WITH HIM?
DID THE WURM'S MIASMA CATCH FIRE?
AN EXPLOSION THAT SIZE COULDN'T KILL A DRAGON...
WHAT A FOOL.
みしっ
MISHI
OKURIBO


BOOM
(KABLOOSH)
BOO
(BLOOSH)


GREE!
AH!
BATATA
CRISPY
ドサッ
(BAGA
(CRASH)
ドォ


THIS IS CLEARLY MORE WATER THAN THE BARREL COULD HOLD!
WHY!?
LEVIATHAN'S ABILITY: SUMMON SEAWATER
ZAAAA GGSSSHO
THE LEVIATHAN'S BARREL BROKE, AND SEAWATER JUST.....
SEA-WATER...
SOMETHING IS WRONG HERE.
SOME-THING'S...
BRING THAT TO ME—
YES, SIR.
WYVERNS, FIND THAT MAN'S CORPSE.
AN ARM, A LEG, A SHRED OF HIM. ANY-THING.


AH!
WHA...!?
PASHAN (SPLASH)
PORO (DROP)

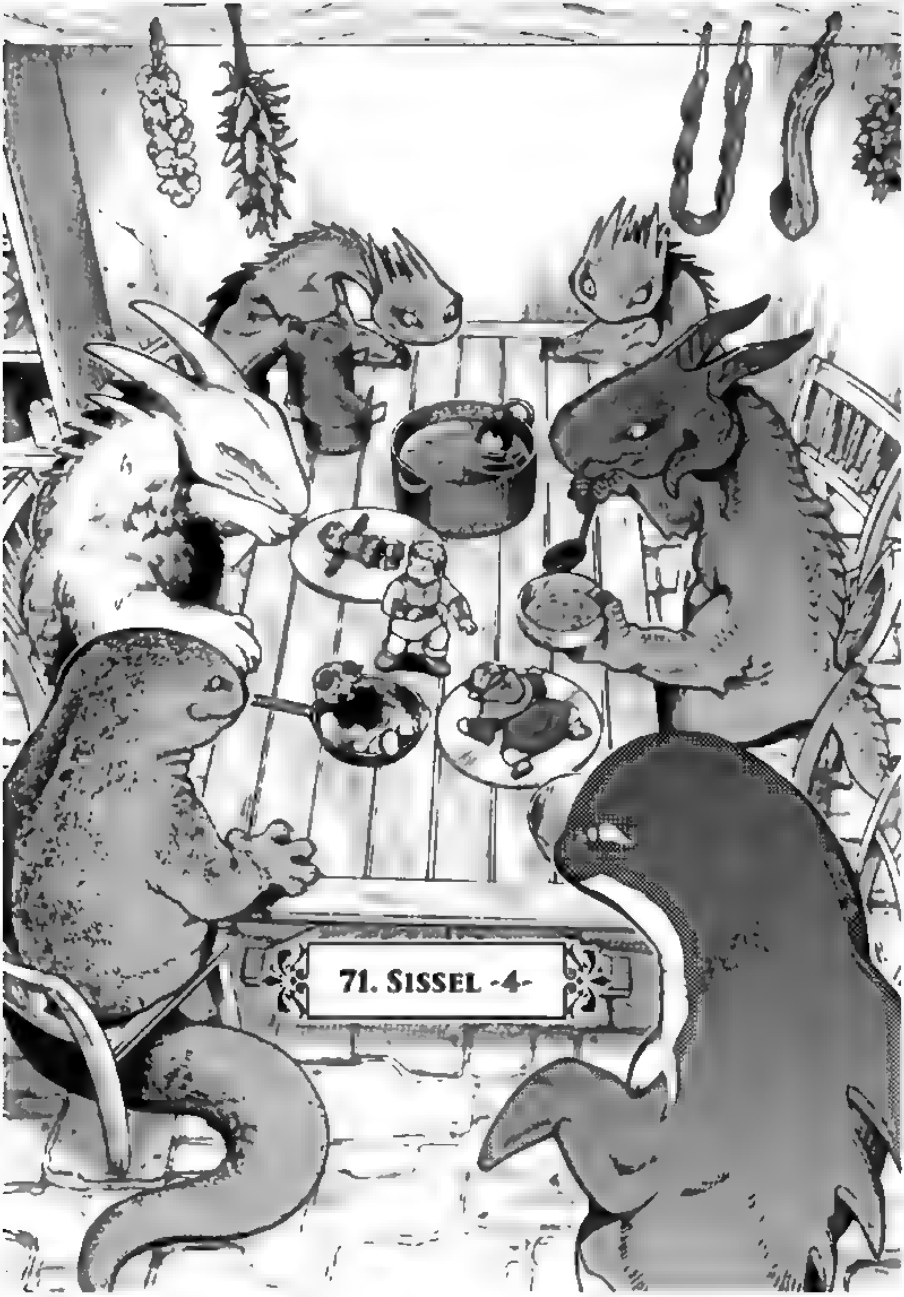

そ!!
ZO
SHUDDER
GOKIN (POP)
ゴキン
—WY-VERN!
GET HIM—
SKREE!
SKREE!
.....!
FALL BACK ...!
...
AAAAH!
SEND THE DRAGONS AWAY!!




CHAPTER 70: THE END






71. Sissel -4-


BUTSU (GLOW)
ぼわ
BUTSU
BUTSU
MARCILLE
FALIN
MARCILLE
FALIN
はぁ……
WHEEZE...
WHEEZE...
HRK!
IF I USE ANY MORE MAGIC, I MIGHT PASS OUT FROM LOW MANA.
UK—
KOFF!
KOFF!
KOFF!
BUT IN ORDER TO DO THAT...
HOW OFTEN DID I MAKE THEM USE MAGIC ON A SINGLE EXPEDITION...?
I WISH I COULD THANK THEM BOTH.
YOU JUST NOTICED?
MARCILLE AND FALIN ARE INCREDIBLE.
HAAAH


I ALSO NEED SISSEL TO YIELD HIS PLACE AS THE DUNGEON'S LORD.
...I'LL HAVE TO RETRIEVE EVERYONE'S CORPSES...
...AND THE WINGED LION'S BOOK BEFORE THEY SINK TO THE BOTTOM.
I NEED TO WALK AROUND A BIT.
I'M SORRY, BUT...
AS I SAID EARLIER, I WANT TO TALK TO YOU.
ズル…
ZURU (DRAG)
NO...
DON'T !!


SISSEL! ARE YOU COMFORT-ABLE?
SIS-SEL?
OKAY...
THIS SHOULD WORK.
ちゃん
CHAN (SHOOP)
I'LL KILL YOU!!
IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE OKAY.
IF YOU STRUGGLE LIKE THAT, WE'LL FALL INTO THE OCEAN.
...!!
DAM-MIT!
ガス
GASU (KICK)
OW!
GASU
ガス
DRAGONS! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
EAT THIS GUY RIGHT NOW!!
THEY'RE AFRAID THEY'LL HURT YOU.


よた
YOTA
よた
YOTA
よた
YOTA (TODDLER)
IT'S IN HERE.
THIS IS GONNA BE BUMPY.
DAM-MIT!
THE BOOK'S RIGHT THERE, BUT I CAN'T—!!
TON (THUD)
UU!
RGH!
HUP!
HUP!


フラ
フラ
フラ
フラ
フラ
フラ
SORRY TO INTER-RUPT...
THE WYVERNS ARE EATING THE DEAD GREEN DRAGON.
...I CAN'T REACH HER...
MARCILLE
I'LL NEED SOME SORT OF TOOL.
HMM...
...ALID...
HUH?


DID THE WINGED LION HELP YOU?
YOU MUST HAVE CHEATED!
FRAUD...
THIS IS FRAUD!!
HOW ARE YOU STILL ALIVE!?
THERE WE GO.
ON THE OTHER HAND, I WANTED TO AVOID THE RED DRAGON'S BREATH NO MATTER WHAT.
THE WURM AND WHITE DRAGON HAD ALREADY USED THEIRS ONCE, THOUGH.
THE SECOND BLAST WOULD BE LESS POTENT, SO I DIDN'T THINK I'D DIE INSTANTLY.
WHEN THOSE THREE DRAGONS SURROUNDED ME...
...ANY OF THEIR BREATHS WOULD HAVE KILLED ME.


RED DRAGONS HAVE AN INVERSE SCALE ON THEIR NECKS.
IT'S A VULNERABLE SPOT. ANYTHING THAT GETS STUCK CLOSE TO IT IS BOUND TO DISTRACT THEM.
THAT'S WHY I THREW KENSUKE AT THAT ONE.
.. SO THE WURM'S MIASMA WAS NEXT.
AS YOU KNOW, SKIN WON'T STOP WURM POISON.
THAT'S WHY...
IF I MANAGED TO BUY TIME, THEN I COULD MOVE ON.
IT TAKES A WHILE FOR WHITE DRAGON BREATH TO COOL...
!!!
WHITE DRAGON FUR TRAPS A LOT OF AIR TO INSULATE IT FROM THE COLD.
EVEN IN DENSE MIASMA, I KNEW I'D BE SAFE IN THERE FOR A BIT.
...I TOOK SHELTER IN THE WHITE DRAGON'S FUR.


A NIGHT-MARE ...!?
THAT WAS A NIGHT-MARE ILLUSION.
OH, THAT.
I SAW YOU IN THE MIASMA JUST BEFORE THE RED DRAGON BREATHED FIRE!!
DON'T LIE!!
THEY EAT DREAMS. WHEN THEY DIE, THEY SPIT UP WHAT THEY'VE EATEN.
YES.
DIDN'T YOU SUMMON THEM?
IT HELPED DISTRACT THE DRAGONS.
LUCKILY, THE MIASMA MADE IT HARD TO SEE.
I DON'T KNOW WHOSE DREAM THEY ATE, THOUGH.
THE FIGURE IN THE MIASMA WAS A MIRAGE FROM THE DEAD NIGHT-MARES.


THE BLAST BROKE THE BARREL, THE LEVIATHAN EMERGED ...
THE RED DRAGON'S FLAMES IGNITED THE WURM'S MIASMA...
...BUT THE WHITE DRAGON'S FUR SHIELDED ME FROM THE WORST OF IT.
...AND YOU KNOW THE REST.


DRAGONS ARE THE STRONGEST, BUT THEY'RE STILL LIVING CREATURES.
SHOO.
SHOO.
FRANKLY ...
...YOU COULD HAVE WIPED US OUT MANY TIMES OVER...
...IF YOU'D KNOWN EVEN ONE OF THE DRAGON TRAITS I JUST TOLD YOU ABOUT.
...AND THEY ALL HAVE THEIR PREFER-ENCES.
THEY SEE THEIR OWN KIND AS A GREATER THREAT THAN HUMANS...
BASICALLY, THOSE TRAITS DEVELOPED SO THEY COULD EAT.
THEIR ATTACK METHODS AND STURDY BODIES ARE WHAT ENABLE THEM TO SURVIVE.
...OR IF YOU'D AT LEAST FED FALIN ENOUGH...
...YOU'D HAVE KILLED ME AGES AGO.
IF YOU'D TAKEN A LITTLE MORE INTEREST IN THE CREATURES HERE...


...I SEE.
OH?
HOW DO YOU KNOW SO MUCH?
DID THE WINGED LION TELL YOU?
N-NO, NO.
I LIKE MONSTERS...
...SO I READ BOOKS ABOUT THEM.
THAT'S IT!?
HMM...
INCREDIBLE.
HOW DID YOU DEFEAT THAT MONSTER, AND THOSE OTHER ONES?
THOSE OTHERS
THAT MONSTER
OH, THOSE WERE...
...WHAT ELSE?
HUH?


HOW CAN I MAKE HIM SEE...?
AH...
...BUT WE WERE THE ONES WHO INVADED AND THREATENED HIM FIRST.
I DON'T WANT TO RESOLVE THIS BY KILLING HIM.
.....
WE DIED IN THE DUNGEON LOADS OF TIMES, AND SOMETHING AWFUL HAPPENED TO MY SISTER...
HM.
I BET THAT'S THE KEY...
...TO GETTING HIM TO LISTEN.
SO WHAT IF I AM?
THE PEOPLE OF THE GOLDEN COUNTRY SAID THEY DON'T NEED TO EAT.
ARE YOU THE SAME?
BO (WOOF)
HI"!
KREE!
GRAH!
HM...
I KNOW!


COULD YOU GIVE US SOME OF THAT...?
!!
LOOK OUT!!
URK!


HOT!
IT WORKED!
HFF!
HFF!
BOPOPO (CRACKLE)
...THEN COOK IT OVER WYVERN FIRE UNTIL BROWNED.
JAAA (SIZZLE)
TAKE THE DRAGON MEAT AND NIGHT-MARES...
..AND DRIZZLE SEAWATER OVER IT ..
WE'LL USE UTENSILS AS A FRAME...
GREEN DRAGON ACQUA PAZZA
Ingredients
Green dragon meat 200 g
Nightmares 7
Leviathan's seawater 200 mL
IT'S DONE!!
VITAMIN C
VITAMIN B2
VITAMIN A
IRON
CALCIUM


GOSO (RUMMAGE)
GOSO
TON (TNK)
DOSA (PWUMP)
DON (WHUMP)
WE COOKED THIS TOGETHER.
LET'S EAT IT TOGETHER TOO.
THE BOOK IS NOT A HOT PAD!
SORRY.


ぱくり
PAKURI
CHUNCHO
HWOO...
HWOO...
IT TASTES SORT OF WEIRD...
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S THE MEAT OR THE WYVERN FIRE, BUT...
JORI
CRUNCH
LILI.
.....
OH, RIGHT.
HERE, TRY SOME...
I'LL EAT IF YOU UNTIE ME.
ALL THAT WORK TO MAKE IT, AND IT'S BAD.
SALTY.
ACRID.
SMELLY.
SOME-TIMES THAT HAPPENS.
IT TASTES LIKE THE INSIDE OF A CHIMNEY.
YES! THAT'S IT EXACTLY!
PAKU CHONO
!


SOMETIMES AS WE WANDERED THE DUNGEON, I'D FEEL TERRIBLY GRIM...
THE SAME THINGS TASTE DIFFERENT DEPENDING ON THE SITUATION.
WORKING BY TRIAL AND ERROR IS FUN.
FRUSTRATED
MENU
MUST USE BY—
SUPPLY
SAD
IT HURTS.
...BUT AT MEALTIME, I'D FORGET THAT.
OR RATHER, I WOULDN'T HAVE TIME TO THINK.
EVERY LIVING THING EATS SOMETHING IN ORDER TO CARRY ON LIVING.
NOTHING CAN LIVE WITHOUT FOOD.
I THINK IT'S BECAUSE MEALS ARE AN ACT OF OPTIMISM.
LIVING ETERNALLY WITH NO NEED FOR FOOD OR REST...
SISSEL, THE PEOPLE OF THE GOLDEN COUNTRY ARE SUFFERING.
ONLY THE DEAD DON'T EAT.
...IS EXHAUSTING THEM.


I WANT YOU TO LISTEN TO THEM, SISSEL.
...IS MAKING PEOPLE UNHAPPY.
THEY WANT YOU TO SEE THAT THIS CONTROL...
GOBLIN GUILD
ゴブリンギルド
...I SEE.


DON'T BE AFRAID. I WON'T KILL YOU.
MOVE THE SPOON.
HUH!?
PARA
HM.
PARA FLIP
GU (HEFT)
...ALL RIGHT.
THIS WAS HELPFUL.
IF I PROTECTED THE KINGDOM, I THOUGHT ITS PEOPLE WOULD FOLLOW ME...
...BUT I MAY HAVE OVERLOOKED SOMETHING IMPORTANT.
"EVERY LIVING THING EATS," HMM?
IT'S JUST AS YOU SAY.
PATAN (SMLIT)


I'M JUST REALLY HAPPY YOU HEARD ME OUT.
OH, NO...
TERE
TERE
NO, NO.....
.....RE-SOLVED?
IT MAY HAVE RESOLVED A MAJOR CHALLENGE I'VE BEEN FACING.
YOUR KNOWL-EDGE IS RATHER USEFUL.
HOW ABOUT THAT!
IT WAS SUCH A SIMPLE THING.


WAAH!
WH-WHAT'S THIS...!?
BOGOKO (KRRRK)
BOKO (KRAK)
BOKO
BOKOKO
DON'T WORRY.
AH HA HA!
THEY WON'T HURT YOU.
GICHI (KRIK)
GICHI
WAIT...
SIS-SEL!? WHAT IS—
GASHIR! (GRAB)

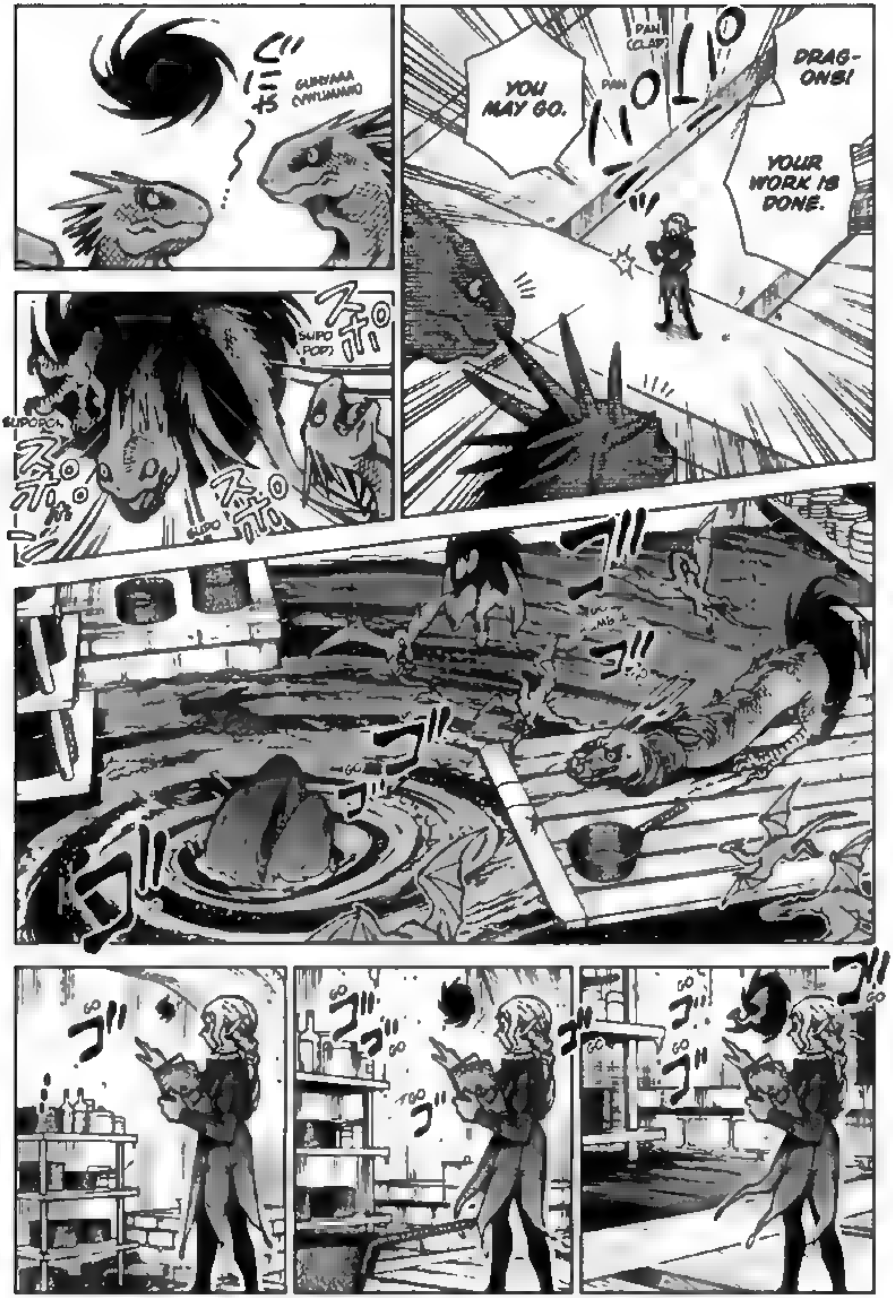

YOU SAID LIVING THINGS NEED FOOD, RIGHT?
IN THAT CASE, I'LL FEED YOU.
GUM
GUM
GUM
BOKO
BOKO
DORO (OOZE)
THANKS.
CONSIDER THIS AN HONOR.
IF I DO THIS TO EVERY-ONE...
...IT WILL SOLVE ALL MY PROB-LEMS.
MM-HMM, MM-HMM!
IT'S SO SIMPLE, WHY DIDN'T I PICK UP ON IT?


YOU'VE TAUGHT ME SOMETHING NEW.
IN RETURN, I'LL ACCEPT YOU AS A RESIDENT OF THIS KINGDOM.
YOU'LL NEVER WANT FOR FOOD AGAIN.
BE GLAD!
MUCH!
EAT!
MUCHI
ZUBOO (SHOONK)
NO, THIS ISN'T WHAT I—
INFINITE FOOD!!?
NEVER ...!?

# 72. Sissel -5-




MFFH!
MMRUF!
WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THAT!?
WHAT A GREAT IDEA...
THIS WAY I CAN KEEP EVERYONE FROM WANDERING AROUND THE DUNGEON...
...WHILE ALSO PROTECTING THEM!
BUT FIRST.
KYU (DELGA)
キュ!!
I'LL HAVE TO HURRY AND DO THIS TO DELGAL TOO.


GUNYAAA CYAYLLAAARO
PAN (CLAP)
PAN
YOU MAY GO.
DRAG-ONS!
YOUR WORK IS DONE.
SUPO (POP)
SUPOPO
SUPO


WHEW.
AH
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA!
KURU (TWIRL)
KURU
KURU
HEH HEH.
OHHH?
BASA (FWUMP)
ゴス!
GGOH (MMM)


WHAT? A SWORD!?
WHO LEFT A THING LIKE THAT IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
NIKO (SMILE)
WE JUST GOT OUR FIRST NEW RESIDENT IN AGES.
I'M SURE IT'LL BE FUN.
THE SAME CONTESTANT ALWAYS WINS, SO IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE HAD ONE.
THAT ONE AGAIN..
ONCE I FIND DE-GAL, MAYBE WE'LL HOLD A SWORD-FIGHTING TOURNAMENT AGAIN.
DELGAL LOVES SWORD-FIGHTING!
THERE'S SO MUCH TO DO!
BATA
BATA KICK


ヒィ"
ヒィ"
YAAA—
STOP, DAMMIT!


WH-WHAT ARE YOU D—?
MUSHA (ANGRY)
MUSHA
MUSHA
GOKURI (GULP)
UGK!
ZOWA (SHUDDER)
IT DOESN'T HURT...
...BUT WHAT IS THIS UGLY FEELING?
GOKU
I'LL BLOW YOU AWA—
MUSHA
MUSHA
MUSHA
GORI (GRIND)
BA (LUNGE)
EGH!
GA (CHOMP)
HUH?
WHAT WAS IT I WANTED TO DO?
OH...
.....


DESIRES LEFT TO MATURE FOR A THOUSAND YEARS REALLY ARE SPECIAL...
THIS IS PRIME STUFF, SISSEL.
PECHA
PECHA QUICK
WHA ...?
THAT'S GOOD...
ABSOLUTELY DELECTABLE.
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THE CHANCE TO EAT YOUR DESIRES ALL ALONG.
DIDN'T YOU SEAL ME BECAUSE YOU KNEW?
WHAT ARE YOU... SAYING...?
THE INFINITE WORLD WHERE I LIVED HAD NONE.
STILL ...
PICHA
DESIRES ARE MY FAVORITE DISH, YOU SEE.
PICHA (SMAK)
ZUPU (SLURP)
YOU DON'T WANT TO STRUGGLE NOW, RIGHT?
.....?
BY THE WAY, I JUST ATE YOUR DESIRE TO RESIST.


ALL THAT TIME AND EFFORT TO MAKE IT, AND IT'S EATEN UP IN MERE MOMENTS.
...I CAN SEE WHY YOU'D GET SICK OF BEING LIMITED.
ON TOP OF THAT, THE SATISFACTION DOESN'T LAST LONG.
WHAT FUTILITY.
I HATE TO ADMIT IT...
...BUT I'VE BEEN THOROUGHLY CHARMED BY THESE MEALS.
THAT MAY BE WHAT MAKES IT AN ACT LIKE NO OTHER, THOUGH.
GOKURI (GULP)
OH-HO! THERE IT IS!
THAT'S THE ENTRÉE I WAS AFTER.
MOGO OKOMO
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
I'D IMAGINE NOT.


ZO (SHUDDER)
BEAUTI-FUL...
IT'S YOUR DESIRE, FORMED OF LAYER UPON LAYER OF VARIOUS WISHES.
NO.
I MUSTN'T LET HIM EAT THAT.
...!?
PERORI (SLURP)
I'LL SAVOR IT CARE-FULLY.
I ALMOST HATE TO EAT IT.
STOP—


DISAP-
PEARING
...!
I'M
GOING TO
DISAP-
PEAR!!
AAAAAH!!
I DON'T
WANT TO
DISAP-
PEAR!!
NO!
NO!
NO!!
YUM...
CHIMA
NIBB
IT'S
SINFULLY
RICH.
CHIMA
ちま
I CAN'T
STOP!
I WANT
TO SEE
HIS FACE
ONE MORE
TIME.
MUSHA
MUNCH
FACE?
WHOSE
FACE?


SOME-
BODY...
ANYONE
WILL DO.
...ANY-
BODY...
...STOP
HIM IN MY
PLACE.
GYU
(SQUEEZE)
GOKURI
(GULP)
POI
(TOSS)
MOGU
MOGU
(MUNCH)
MOGU
.....
IT
WAS GOOD
OF YOU
TO SAVE
ME THE
TROUBLE,
BUT...
...WELL,
EITHER
WAY.
AND
HERE I
WONDERED
WHAT YOU'D
WANT TO
DO AT THE
END...
...THAT'S
IT?
AH!!
CURSES!
I MEANT
TO LEAVE A
LITTLE...
...BUT
IT WAS
SO GOOD
I ATE IT
ALL.


THANKS FOR THE FEAST, SISSEL.


MISHA GUSHU
GAKU (NOD)
DO YOU WANT HELP?
HNGH! BUHHH!
SO THAT'S A "YES"?
MISHI
DOSA (THUMP)
BARN!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, LAIOS?
NNN!

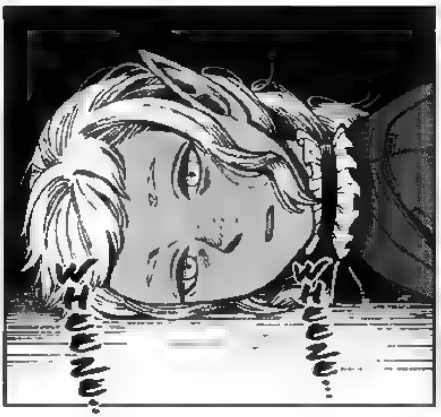



WEREN'T YOU "READY TO STEAL"!?
HE NEARLY MADE FOIE GRAS OF YOU!
TRYING TO TALK THINGS OUT AT THIS JUNC-TURE!


YOU REALLY ARE A FOOL.
BLEEHI
DOROO (OOZE)


WHERE'S SISSEL...?


SISSEL ...


WHEEZE...
WHEEZE...




NEVER MIND THAT.
WE SHOULD HELP YOUR FRIENDS, AND SOON.
WHAT IN THE WORLD ...?
DID YOU DO THIS?
I TOLD YOU I'D HELP YOU.
NOW THAT ITS LORD HAS FALLEN, THE DUNGEON IS UNSTABLE.
THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT COULD HAPPEN.
IT APPEARS YOU WON'T NEED TO.
HUH!?
...BUT I CAN'T RESURRECT ANYONE EITHER!
WHAT DO WE DO!?
...ASSUMING YOU CAN UNSEAL MY OTHER HALF, THAT IS.
OR YOU COULD BECOME THE NEW LORD RIGHT AWAY...
I CAN'T. MARCILLE WOULD HAVE TO...
KOFI KOFI
UUU...
KOFI!


(FUAAAA (YAAAWN)
KOFF!
UHN? WHAT?
WHAT HAPPE—
MAR-CILLE!?
HOW DID YOU REVIVE!?
WHAT!? DID YOU DO THIS, LAIOS!?
NO, IT WASN'T ME.
OH, RIGHT. MAR-CILLE.
WE NEED TO RESUR-RECT THE OTHERS FAST—
EEEEEK!?


PON
ぽん
PON
ぽん
PON (POOF)
ぽん
HOW DID WE GET FROM THAT TO THIS?
GREAT JOB, MARCILLE.
I'M EXHAUST-EEED!!
ぐったぁ～
GUTAAA (LIMP)
WHY ARE WE DRENCHED IN SEA-WATER?
PATAN (SHUT)
ぱたん
UH, WAIT—
CAN I REST A BIT?
S-SORRY.
NOW, HURRY AND UNSEAL ME—
I'M GLAD YOU'RE ALL SAFE.

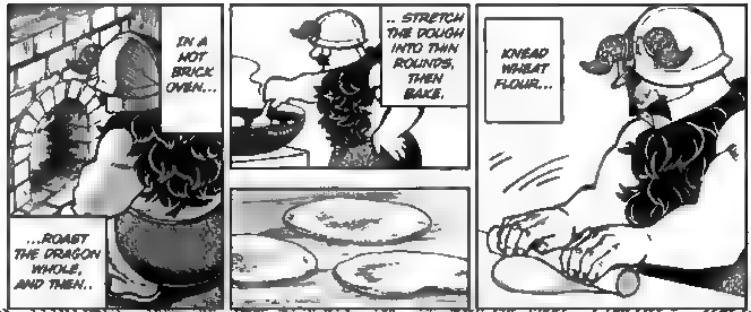

WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY...
THE REST OF YOU JUST REVIVED. THAT'S TIRING TOO.
...ABOUT GUARDING AGAINST ATTACKS NOW.
LET'S TAKE A BREAK.
GURGLE
.....
BY THE WAY, SERIOUSLY, HOW DID YOU GET OUT OF THAT?
WELL—
FOR NOW, LET'S EAT, DRINK...
...BATHE, AND REST UP...
...FOR TOMOR-ROW.
SORRY TO WRECK THE MOOD.
I'M COMPLETELY FAMISHED.
GRUMBLE
WELL, YOU DID JUST REVIVE.
GURU

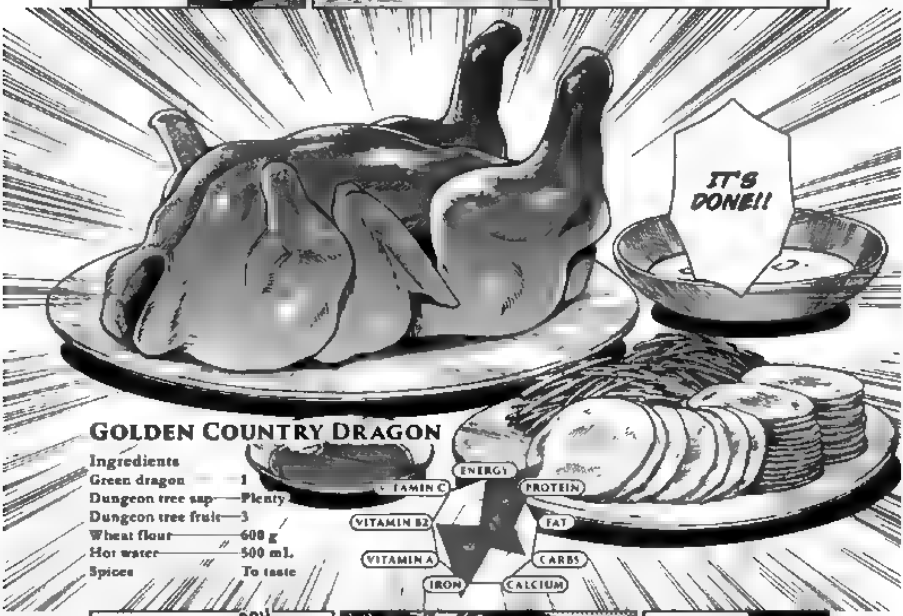

GYA HA HA HA HA HA HA!
LET'S GO GET IT, IZUTSUMI.
TODAY, WE DRINK. THERE WAS LIQUOR IN THE STOREROOM.
AT THAT LEVEL, YOUR [illegible] SHOULD BE PROUD OF ITSELF.
HEE! HEE!
IT CIRCLED RIGHT BACK TO "DUMB."
HONESTLY! DRINKING IS FINE, BUT DON'T OVERDO IT.
SO, YOU'RE A HALF-ELF...?
OH, THAT?
.....
UM...
ANYWAY. WELL DONE, LAIOS.
YOU REALLY HUNG IN THERE.


HE ALWAYS SAID, "I CAN'T DIE BEFORE YOU'RE ALL GROWN UP," BUT...
UH-HUH.
THEN... WHEN YOU SAID YOUR FATHER DIED YOUNG...
YES, I AM. PAPA WAS A TALL-MAN.
I WASN'T REALLY HIDING IT. IT JUST NEVER CAME UP.
THAT MEANT THAT UNTIL I GREW ENOUGH...
...MY ONLY PLAYMATE NEAR MY AGE WAS PAPA.
...SO I COULDN'T MAKE FRIENDS AS A CHILD.
MIXED-RACE CHILDREN GROW AT UNSTABLE RATES...
SAME AGE
CAN I PLAY TOO?
SAME AGE
OLDER
YOUNGER
...SADLY, AT THE AGE OF EIGHTY-TWO, HE...
ON AVERAGE, TALL-MEN LIVE TO SIXTY.
HE DID BETTER THAN I FIGURED ...!
WELL, YOU SEE...
HEH HEH!
WHAT WAS HE LIKE?
I LOVED MY PAPA.
I WISH I'D HAD MORE TIME WITH HIM.


WHY DID I EVEN COME ALL THIS WAY...?
PIKU TWITCH
HMM?
YOU KNOW WE WERE SHORT ON OPTIONS.
DON'T TAKE IT OUT ON ME.
TCH!
I NEVER GOT TO ASK HIM HOW TO TURN HUMAN AGAIN.
...HE—
Y-YOU WANT TO BE HUMAN AGAIN TOO, HUH...?
UM, I'M YAAD.
YES.
RETURN ME TO MY BODY!
HELP ME, PLEASE!
YAUGH!
NO, UM... THAT'S NOT WHAT I...
POOR KID. I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.


WHAT'S THIS PLANT?
THAT'S, UM...
BUT IT SEEMS VERY NUTRITIOUS.
HORK
COULD WE EAT SOMETHING ELSE?
I WONDERED IF WE COULD USE THIS ON FALIN...
...BUT IT WOULD BE BAD IF SHE CAME BACK TINY...
BIG BROTHER!
I WONDER WHY YOUR CORPSES DIDN'T.
MAYBE BECAUSE YOUR SOULS WERE BOUND?
A GREEN DRAGON.
AND THIS IS...?
I GUESS IT SHRANK ALONG WITH THE ROOM.
LET IT DRY A BIT.
REMOVE THE GREEN DRAGON'S INNARDS, PARBOIL IT, THEN DOUSE IT WITH THE MARINADE.
ZAKURI (SHUNK)
MIX PLANT NECTAR WITH SPICES TO MAKE A MARINADE.




## Golden Country Dragon

| Ingredients | |
|---|---|
| Green dragon | 1 |
| Dungeon tree sap | Plenty |
| Dungeon tree fruit | 3 |
| Wheat flour | 600 g |
| Hot water | 500 ml |
| Spices | To taste |







THE CRISPY SKIN AND CHEWY BREAD ARE A GREAT COMBINATION.
WOOOW! WHAT IS THIS? IT'S TERRIFIC.
FILL THESE WITH THINLY SLICED SKIN, MEAT, AND FIXINGS...
PAKURI CHUNCHO
...THEN EAT.
GO ON, DRINK UP.
POUR ME SOME TOO.
THAT'S THE SPIRIT!
GUI (CHUG)
GUI
MAKES THE LIQUOR GO DOWN EASY.




HEY! YOU'RE DRINKING AGAIN?
HURRY UP AND GET TO BED ALREADY!
BUT THIS STUFF IS SO GOOD...
HAAAH
WHAT A GREAT BATH...
MANA SICK-NESS IS ROUGH...
...BUT SO IS RUNNING OUT.
YES INDEED
I'M A LITTLE DIZZY, BUT...
...IF I REST TONIGHT, I'LL BE ABLE TO OPEN THE BOOK.
IS YOUR MANA BACK UP NOW?
WHEN DID YOU RUN OUT OF MANA?
WHEN I WAS HEALING MYSELF AND KEEPING THE DRAGONS AT BAY.
IF WHAT I TAUGHT YOU WAS USEFUL, I'M GLAD.
BUT LAIOS, REALLY...
I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS SO MUCH WORK.
YOU AND FALIN MAKE USING MAGIC LOOK EASY.
THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING.
HUH!? YOU DID THAT!?
BUT YOU'RE A NOVICE AT MAGIC!
WELL, IT WAS REALLY HARD.


I'M PROUD OF YOU! I REALLY AM!!
...YOU'VE COME SO FAR!!
HERE.
POUR ME A DRINK TOO.
IT'LL WORK OUT.
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, WE'LL GET THROUGH IT.
I'M GLAD YOU GUYS WERE WITH ME.
I-I GUESS THAT DID HAPPEN, HUH.
YOU HAD ME WORRIED WHEN YOU SAID YOU'D GO ALONE.
WE WERE ALL OPTIMISTS BACK THEN.






73. BAVAROIS


ぱち
ふぁ
ぎゅ
DID YOU SLEEP WELL?
BETTER THAN I HAVE IN A LONG TIME.
MORNING, SENSEI.
MORNING, LAIOS.
YOU TOO, SIEGEL


I'D LIKE TO REPORT TO THE LORD OF THE ISLAND...
MAYBE I'LL CARRY HIM.
WHAT WILL WE DO WITH SISSEL?
THE CLOTHES WE WASHED ARE DRY.
ONCE WE PACK UP, WE CAN JUST HEAD HOME.
LET'S HOPE THE WAY BACK IS EASY.
IT'LL DEPEND ON WHAT THE DUNGEON LORD'S POWER LETS US DO.
ビクッ!
BIKU!! (FLINCH)
FIRST, WE NEED TO RELEASE THE WINGED LION.
I'LL GO WAKE UP MARCILLE.
...URTS.
HUH?
THE BOOK'S SEAL IS...
YOU'RE AWAKE?
HOW'S YOUR MANA?


MY HEAD...
...HURTS!
ZUKI (THROB)
ZUN
ZUKI
ULUU.
DRINK WATER AND REST!
A HANG-OVERRR...
COULD A RECOVERY SPELL FIX IT...?
THAT'S DEFINITELY ...
A HANGOVER. YES.
LET'S TAKE IT SLOW.
TON (TMP)
WELL, IT'S FINE.
ALL THAT'S LEFT TO DO IS GO HOME.
KUU (CHILD) KUU
THIS IS GOOD!
I GAVE HER TOO MUCH.
SHE DIDN'T LOOK VERY DRUNK, SO I JUST...
GEEZ


I HADN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IT.
I'D PLANNED TO GO ON LIVING LIKE BEFORE.
YOU SURE DON'T ASK FOR MUCH.
HA HA!
WHAT WILL YOU DO AFTER WE GET BACK, SENSHI?
YOU WON'T EVICT ME, WILL YOU?
IF IT DOES, I'LL JUST FIND NEW WAYS TO DO THINGS.
OF COURSE NOT.
...WON'T THAT CHANGE THE INTERIOR A BIT?
BUT IF LAIOS BECOMES THE DUNGEON'S LORD...
I'LL HAVE TO TALK THIS OVER WITH THEM TOO.
MYSELF ASIDE, I'M CONCERNED FOR THE ORCS.
I'VE BEEN GEARING UP TO BUY ONE FOR A WHILE NOW.
OH? I DIDN'T KNOW THAT.
I DIDN'T TELL YOU.
I'LL GO BACK TO KAHKA BRUD AND OPEN A SHOP.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, CHILCHUCK?

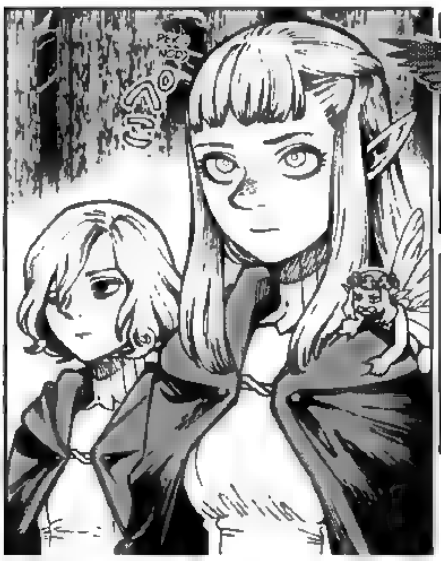

KASA
RUSTLE
DOKI
(BADUMP)
WAS THAT HOLE ALWAYS THERE?
BASA
(FLAP)
KURURI
(TURN)
PHEW
OH. JUST A BIRD...
WHOA!!
BATA
A MON-STER— NO.
A COMMON RAVEN?
BATA'A
(FLAPPA)


...
HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?
YOU'RE NOT A DUNGEON-DWELLING BIRD.
PATATA (FLUTTER)
IT MIGHT JUST BE A PASSING ADVEN-TURER.
DON'T. ARGH. QUIT.
NO MORE TROUBLE.
YORO (STAGGER)
YOU CAN'T "JUST PASS" THIS PLACE!!
OWNER ...!?
PIKU (TWITCH)
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
THAT BIRD WAS REALLY USED TO PEOPLE.
ITS OWNER MAY BE NEARBY.
HUH!?
KASA
HM?


KA...
KABU.
KABRU.
KABRU!?
LAIOS!?
I'LL COME DOWN.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
UM. THINGS, UH...
THINGS HAP-PENED!!
LET'S GO CHECK.
BUT HE WENT BACK TO THE SURFACE.
IS THAT A MON-STER!?
HOW'VE YOU BEEN?
KABRU!


IT'S GREAT TO SEE YOU...!!
YOU TOO.
GASHI (GRASP)
THAT'S AN ODD GRIP.
THIS DOESN'T LOOK LIKE MONSTER MIMICRY...
BA (LEAP)
ACTUALLY, THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET.
PEOPLE...?
YOU DIDN'T COME HERE ALONE, DID YOU?
OF COURSE NOT.
BATATA (FLAP)
KASA (RUSTLE)



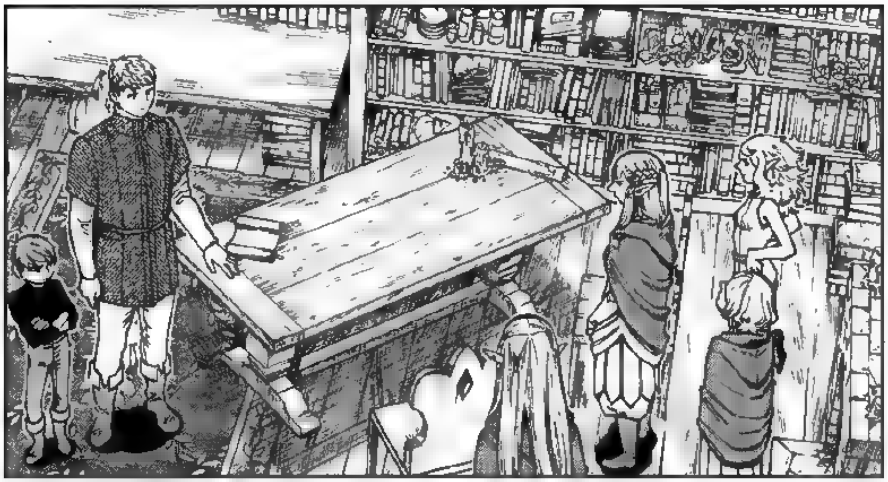


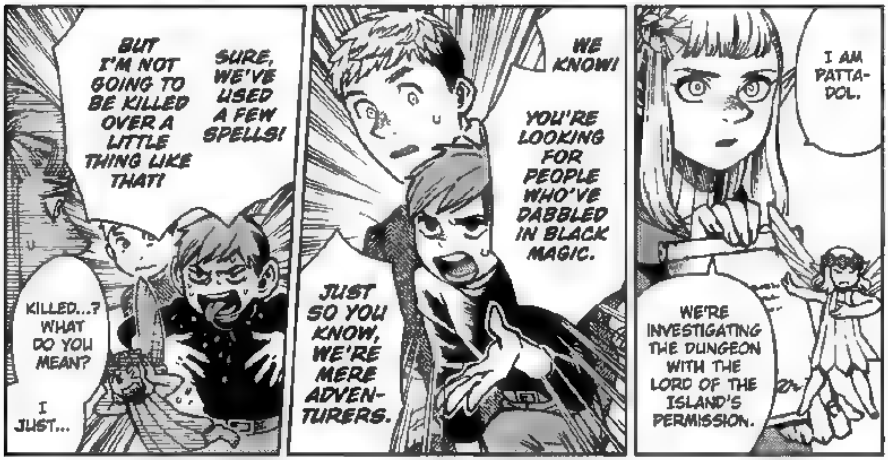


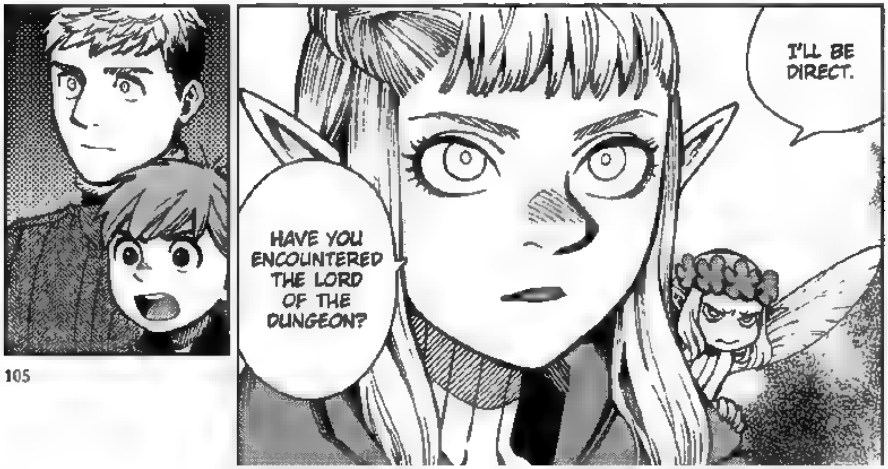



—THEY'RE THE CANARIES, A DUNGEON INVESTIGATION UNIT.
HISO (WHISPER)
YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF FRIENDS...
YOU ALWAYS TURN UP WITH A DIFFERENT GROUP.
ELVES ...
HA HA...
IF THEY FIND OUT YOU USED ANCIENT MAGIC, THIS WILL GET UGLY.
BOSO (MUTTER)
BOSO
...PLEASE, WATCH WHAT YOU SAY.
CANARIES ...
BEWARE THE CANARIES.
WE'D LIKE TO SPEAK WITH YOU.
GOOD DAY. YOU'RE AN ADVENTURER?
DID YOU SUBDUE THIS MONSTER?
OH... YES.
MONSTER


WE'RE DEAD!
THEY PICKED UP ON THAT BLACK MAGIC AND CAME TO GRAB US!!
WHEN ELVES GET YOU, THEY TAKE YOU HOME AND TORTURE YOU TO DEATH—
VISION
THE DAMN WESTERN ELVES SHOWED UP!!
NO!!
IZU-TSUMI, TAKE MARCILLE AND HIDE IN THE ATTIC!!
DON'T FORGET THE BOOKS!
I'LL STAY WITH LAIOS SO HE DOESN'T BLAB ANYTHING!!
AND I SWEAR WE'LL GET HOME!!!
SENSHI, YOU—
I'LL PREPARE TEA SNACKS.
YES, DO THAT.
BA (PWAP)
OWW!




I AM PATTA-DOL.
WE'RE INVESTIGATING THE DUNGEON WITH THE LORD OF THE ISLAND'S PERMISSION.
WE KNOW!
YOU'RE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WHO'VE DABBLED IN BLACK MAGIC.
JUST SO YOU KNOW, WE'RE MERE ADVEN-TURERS.
SURE, WE'VE USED A FEW SPELLS!
BUT I'M NOT GOING TO BE KILLED OVER A LITTLE THING LIKE THAT!
KILLED...? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I JUST...


I'LL BE DIRECT.
HAVE YOU ENCOUNTERED THE LORD OF THE DUNGEON?


NOPE!
SO YOU MET THE MAGICIAN !?
WHY HIDE THAT!?
ANCIENT MAGIC WASN'T INVOLVED. JUST TELL THEM!!
"WHEW! I GOT THROUGH THAT."
WRONG!! YOU JUST MADE THEM SUSPECT YOU!!
...I SEE.
HE'S AN ABYSMAL LIAR!!


HEH HEH!
DAMMIT! IF I COULD JUST GET HIM ALONE...
WAIT, IS WHAT YOU'RE HIDING REALLY BAD?
MAYBE YOU COULDN'T KILL THE MAGICIAN AND YOU'RE SHELTERING HIM?
GIVE THEM AN EXCUSE, AND YOU'RE DONE FOR.
I GUESS HE'S LOST AGAIN.
I'LL GO LOOK FOR HIM.
HUH?
YES, DO...
...BY THE WAY.
OHHH ...
!
I DON'T SEE THE CAPTAIN.
YOU'RE HIDING SOME-THING UP THERE!?
UP, HUH!?
UP.
UP.
UP.
"THAT'S" ?
NO, THAT'S...
LET ME BY.
OUR COMPAN-ION IS MISSING.
UH...
GLAZUE
HANG ON...
... JUST A...
UM! I, UH...
GATA (CLATTER)


YES! THE TEA IS READY!
TEA...
さっ
さっ
さっ
さっ
さっ
MYSTERIOUS BAVAROIS (NOT IDENTIFIED) AND SOME KIND OF TEA (NOT IDENTIFIED)
ENERGY
PROTEIN
FAT
CARBS
CALCIUM
IRON
VITAMIN A
VITAMIN B2
VITAMIN C
BAVAROIS
Ingredients
Large egg — 1
That one milk — 300 mL
Plant nectar — 50 mL
Slime — Just enough


I ASSURE YOU, YOU'RE SAFE IN THIS HOUSE...
...SO PLEASE GIVE ME A LITTLE TIME.
...WHY DON'T WE TAKE A BREAK FIRST?
WE'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT THESE PAST FEW DAYS.
I'D LIKE TO RELAX A BIT BEFORE I EXPLAIN.
DON'T SERVE THEM MONSTERS!
IT LOOKS DELICIOUS!
SENSHI MADE THIS, DIDN'T HE!?
HE'S A GENIUS IN THE KITCHEN!
WHAT IS—
OH WOW!!
...ALL RIGHT.
WE'LL INDULGE YOU BRIEFLY.
YES! I'M THRILLED!
I KNOW YOU LOVE THIS SORT OF THING.
GO ON, EAT. DON'T HOLD BACK.


.. YOKDO, LINGWIN, FORBLE, OONDON, BLINBA, KAN.
DETZVEIL, IGANBORD, DOLTWENBO, SHAMDOIZ, BRIGAN.
KANEA BRUD, IZGANDA, CADENA, DOZANK, MERINI, BRUNBA, GODHO.
THE WORLD'S MAJOR CITIES
GUNI
GUNI
GUNI
WOW!
IT'S SO JIGGLY.
HEY, FLEK! !!
IT LOOKS JIGGLY AND TASTY, OKAY!?
I'M SICK OF DRY TRAVEL RATIONS.
PECHO
CLICK
THERE'S PLENTY MORE!
ABSO-LUTELY AMAZING!
HOW IS IT, KABRU ?
NICE CUT...
YOU KNOW, THIS MIGHT ACTUALLY WORK.
THE TENSION HAS EASED A BIT.
BY THE WAY, WHAT'S IN THIS DESSERT?
EVERY BITE STICKS IN YOUR THROAT.
JUST DRIED BREAD.
WHAT'RE YOUR TRAVEL RATIONS?
HOW'S THE FLAVOR?
HUH!
HOW LONG DOES IT LAST?


SLI...
SLIME AND PLANT NECTAR.
KOFF...
I-I SEE...
LONG JOURNEYS ARE ROUGH ON TRAVEL RATIONS ALONE.
WE MADE IT ALL THIS WAY EATING MONSTERS.
IT'S A GRAVE-YARD, RIGHT?
THE FIRST FLOOR HERE!?
IT'S A DRIED SLIME I CAUGHT ON THE FIRST FLOOR.
...IF WE CAN JUST KEEP TALKING CASUALLY...
THEY'RE HIDING WHAT THEY SHOULD TELL AND VICE VERSA, BUT...
NOT FROM GRAVE-YARDS, THOUGH.
...WELL, SOME REGIONS DO EAT TREASURE INSECTS AND SLIMES NORMALLY.
BURUN
BURU (WOBBLE)


COME ON.
WHAT ARE YOU HIDING?
SILENCE.
HUH!? UM...
THE THING IS, THEY—
YOU MET THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN, AND THEN WHAT?
WHY DID YOU LIE TO US?
CHIRIN (JINGLE)
ALL RIGHT, PATTA-DOL?
I'LL ALLOW IT.
HAAH...
YOU DON'T WANT TO SAY. I SEE.
IN THAT CASE...
...WE'LL "WAIT" UNTIL YOU'D LIKE TO TALK.

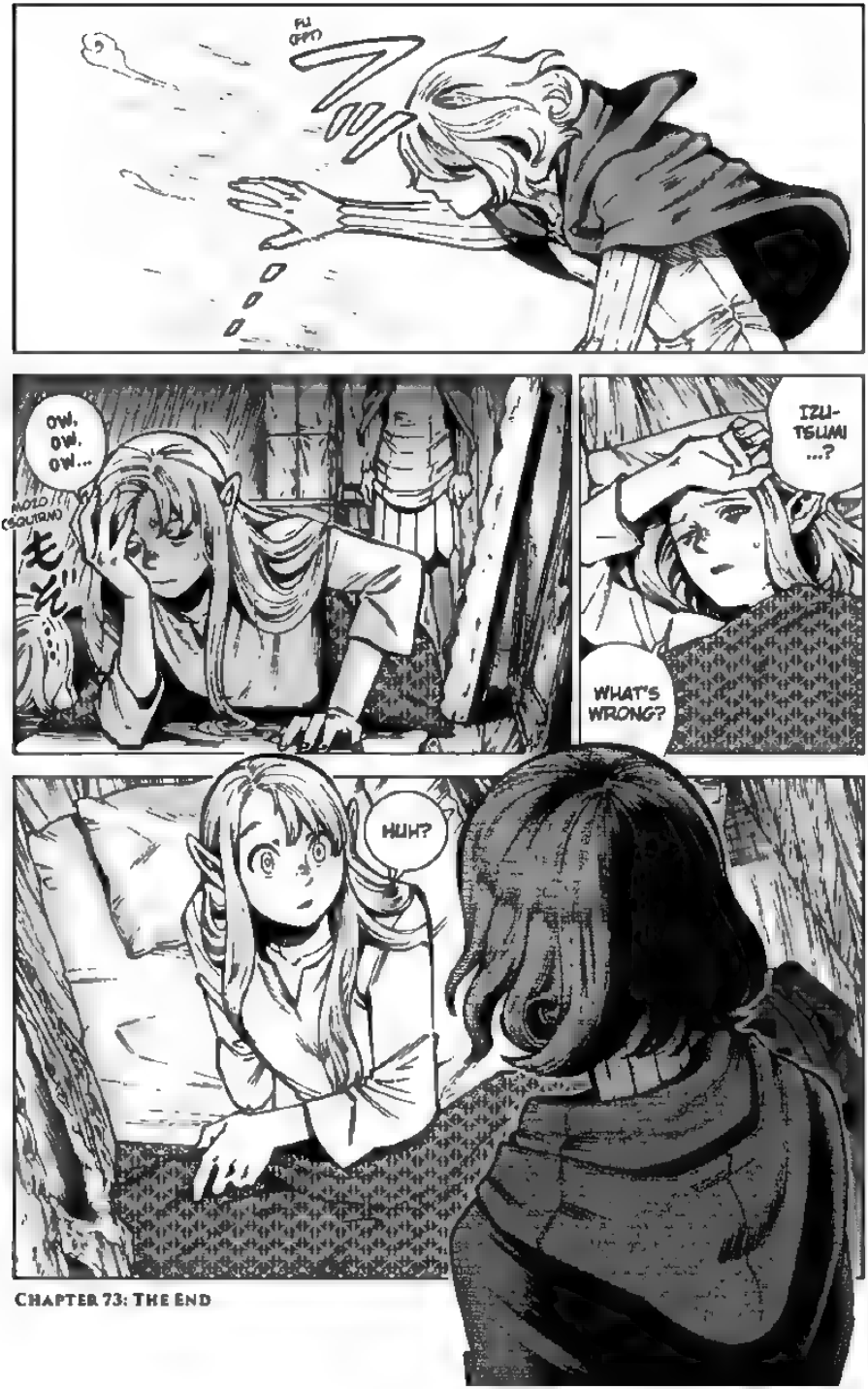

TELL US EVERY-THING.
ALL THAT YOU WISH TO HIDE.


WELL? DO YOU FEEL LIKE TALKING NOW?
...YES...
...CAME HERE TO RESTORE MY SISTER, WHO WAS...
...TURNED INTO A MONSTER.
ILLU-SION MAGIC ...
WE...
DON'T BE RUDE. IT DOESN'T DO THAT.
YIKES...
WHAT'S WITH HIM?
DID THE ILLUSION MAGIC MAKE HIM CRAZY?
TO THAT END...
THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE HER...
...IS TO HAVE A THRONG OF PEOPLE EAT HER FLESH.


...I INTEND TO UNSEAL THE BOOKS THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN HAD...
...AND BECOME THE DUNGEON'S LORD.
ZAWA (MURMUR)
I WAS TOO LATE...!!
THE DUNGEON'S GOTTEN HIM ALREADY!
THIS GUY'S DONE FOR!
WE MUST TEAR HIM AWAY FROM IT AT ONCE...!!


SHH!
IT'S DUSTY...
HU...
GOGO
GOGO (SHUFFA)
BUT...
SHH...
IF IT GETS NASTY, SHOULD I GET OUT THIS WAY?
SOME-THING'S WRONG DOWN THERE.
AH!
ぶわっ
—BUWA (SHUDDER)


WHERE'D YOU COME—




CHAPTER 73: THE END





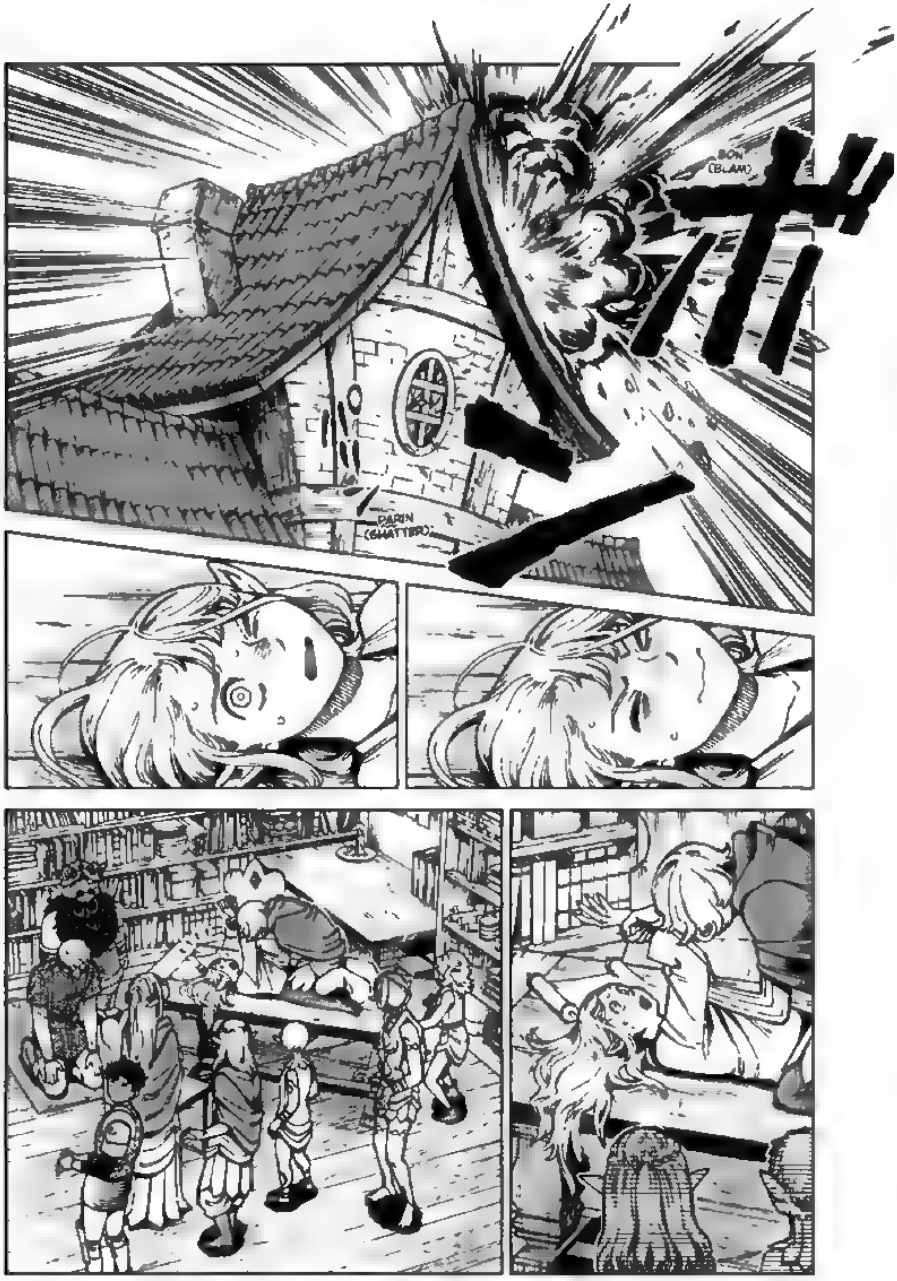

74. LIRICMUMWAREI


WHO IS...?
WH—
GUNN CRYRRRD
SLI (SHIP)


SERI-OUSLY, WHO IS THIS!?
WHERE DID IZUTSUMI GO!?
GOSO (RUMMAGE) GOSO
...NOT HERE.
GISHI (CREAK)


DID YOU SEE THE DEMON?
WHERE DID IT GO?
WHAT DID IT LOOK LIKE?
WHAT DID IT SAY?
WHA ...?
UM... I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE...
IS IT STILL HUNGRY?
WHAT IS YOUR DESIRE?
DID THE DEMON CHOOSE YOU NEXT?
AH!
WHERE ARE THE BOOKS?
SIGGEL MUST HAVE HAD THEM.


THE BOOKS !!
THIS GUY KNOWS ABOUT THE BOOKS!
UUII
MY STAFF !!
I CAN'T REACH ...
THE DEMON—
BA CRASH!


BON
(BLAM)
PARIN
(SHATTER)


WHAAA!?
AAAAAH!!
Y-YOU GUYS!!
WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE!?
CAPTAIN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
.....
.....


NO, SO DID I...
I'M GLAD THAT BLAST DIDN'T HIT ANYONE.
IT APPEARS WE'VE MADE AN AWFUL MISTAKE.
MUCH BETTER.
HOW IS YOUR HEADACHE?
I CAN'T BELIEVE ILLUSION MAGIC MADE THEM SPILL EVERYTHING...
MM-HMM...
—SO SHE SAYS!! PLEASE FORGIVE OUR RUDE-NESS!!
HEY, CITHIS.
WHEN WILL THAT ILLUSION MAGIC WEAR OFF!?
IT SHOULD HAPPEN NATURALLY BEFORE LONG.
I'M VERY SORRY.


WATCH YERSELVES.
HER MOOOOM'S A COURT MAGHICIAN!
I WISH CHILCHUCK HADN'T SAID THAT. WHAT A PAIN...
URK!
THAT ASIDE...
...SO YOU'RE THE DAUGHTER OF A COURT MAGICIAN!
SUCH MODESTY!
...THEN THESE ARE MERCENARIES YOU HIRED AS GUARDS?
YES.
I'M A SCHOLAR OF ANCIENT MAGIC, IN A MINOR WAY.
THAT PART'S TRUE
THEN YOU'RE HERE DOING RESEARCH?
AAAAGH. I LIED.
COME TO THINK OF IT, WHY IS HE HERE!? WHAT DOES HE WANT!?
FASA (SWISH)
THAT'S RIGHT.
URK...
PAKU (FLAP)
PAKU


THAT MAN EVEN BABBLED ABOUT BECOMING ITS LORD.
"THAT MAN"
THE DUNGEON IS ALREADY AFFECTING THEIR MINDS.
THIS IS FORWARD OF ME, BUT...
...I BELIEVE IT IS UNWISE TO TRUST THEM.
THEY'VE BEEN SEALED, SO I DOUBT WE NEED TO WORRY.
HOW-EVER...
...AS THEY ARE DANGER-OUS, WE COULD TAKE THEM...
AHEM.
...MIGHT YOU HAVE THE BOOKS, LADY MARCILLE?
BOSO (MUTTER)
...GO THROUGH THE PROPER CHANNELS, AND I WILL ACCOMMO-DATE YOU.
ALWAYS BE FIRM WITH ELVES ...
IF THEY INTEREST YOU...
I BEG YOUR PARDON.
I-I SEE.
NO NEED!
I WILL TAKE CHARGE OF STORING THEM AT MY LABORA-TORY.


YOU SHOULD BE RELEASED FROM YOUR DUTIES AND SENT HOME.
AH...
WE'VE SUBDUED SISSEL, THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN.
THERE ARE NO THREATS HERE ANY LONGER.
IF I CAN JUST BUY ENOUGH TIME TO UNSEAL THAT BOOK, WE WIN...
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
LET'S GO HOME...
DOKI DOKI (BADUMP) DOKI
THAT HASN'T BEEN DECIDED YET!
FOR REAL? WE GET TO GO HOME?
WHOO-HOO!!
REALLY?
I DON'T GENERALLY LEAVE MY LABORATO-RY...
NO!! - WE HAVEN'T!!
WH-WHAT IS IT?
...WE MAY HAVE MET BEFORE.


NOBLES FROM ALL ACROSS THE LAND WERE THERE!
OH! THAT'S TRUE.
AT THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE QUEEN'S ASCENSION.
...OF...
WHAT'S THAT?
WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THE LIRIC-MUMWA-RE!?
OH, THAT TAKES ME BACK!
OF COURSE I ATTENDED.
IT WAS A SPLENDID CEREMONY.
I READ ABOUT IT.
YES! I'D NEVER BEEN TO SUCH A GLORIOUS BANQUET.
RATIONS!!
IT SOUNDS LIKE A SOUP KITCHEN.
THEY LINED UP WITH DISHES ...?
OHHH. IT'S A FOOD.
...WE MAY HAVE BEEN RIGHT NEXT TO EACH OTHER.
WHEN WE TOOK OUR DISHES TO RECEIVE IT...
THE FOOD HERE IS YUMMIER.
WHYYY?
MOTHER NEVER ATE LOCAL CUISINE FROM HER HOMELAND.
I WONDER WHAT IT'S LIKE.


AH-HA! YOU'RE SO FUNNY.
THE SHRIMP AND OCTOPUS WERE SO JUICY.
YES, IT WAS DELICIOUS.
IT SOUNDS PRETTY HEARTY.
ALL THE COLORFUL SHRIMP AND OCTOPUS AND ONION...
THE FOOD WAS BEAUTIFUL.
WHAAAT!? EWWW...
I COULDN'T BEAR TO EAT MINE, SO I TOOK IT HOME AND LOOKED AT IT EVERY NIGHT.
YUUUCK.
ROSES, STRAWBERRIES, AND DOVES.
WHAT WAS IN YOUR DISH, CAPTAIN?
HERRING, MACKEREL, AND SARDINES.
...UM...
IS IT A TYPE OF HOT POT?
WHAT WAS IN YOUR DISH, LADY MARCILLE?
"AMAZING"?
YOU'RE AMAZING, LADY MARCILLE, BUT SO IS WHOEVER MADE THAT!
WHAT!?


BA CTURND
CITHIS.
WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THIS?
I WASN'T REALLY LISTENING.
OH. SORRY.
WHAT!? A HALF-ELF?
I THOUGHT IT WAS ODD. SHE LOOKED LIKE A HALF-ELF TO ME.
OH. YEAH, I WONDERED ABOUT THAT.
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF A COURT MAGICIAN WITH A HALF-BREED DAUGHTER.
I DON'T NEED MAGIC TO KNOW IT'S ALL LIES.
HERRING
SARDINE
MACKEREL
2cm
...I SEE...
BE NOBLE OF MIND
BE DILIGENT
WITH LOVE
2cm
...AND THE COMBINATION CONVEYS A BLESSING FROM THE QUEEN.
IT COMES IN LOTS OF SHAPES ...
THEY'RE ABOUT YEA BIG.
FANCY CANDY.
WHAT'S LIRIMUCK-WAREY ANYWAY?
IT'S LIRICNUM WARE!


.....!
THE QUEEN IS A STAUNCH TRADITIONALIST.
SHE WOULDN'T ACKNOWLEDGE A HALF-BREED...
...OR GIVE HER A BLESSING.
EVEN IF HER SKILLS WEREN'T MUCH...
...I HEAR THEY'RE HAPPY JUST TO HAVE AN ELF THERE.
BINGO
...SO PERHAPS SHE SERVED A ROYAL FROM A SHORT-LIVED RACE?
THE "COURT MAGICIAN" PART FELT TRUE...
カツーン
...AND THAT CHILD RESENTED THE WORLD.
AN ELF SERVING IN A SHORT-LIVED DOMAIN BORE A HALF-BREED...
IT'S A COMMON STORY.


GIVE THEM HERE.
YOU...
...HAVE THE BOOKS.
...BUT THEN PEOPLE LOSE THAT DESIRE.
THE DUNGEON DOES GRANT WISHES...
TO RES-URRECT THE DEAD?
TO BEAR CHIL-DREN?
TO BE A PURE-BLOOD?
WHAT IS YOUR WISH?
GISHI (CREAK)
CAN'T YOU SEE HOW FUTILE THAT IS?


WHY, YOU—
GOOD.
THEN MY DREAM WILL COME TRUE.
LET ME PERSUADE HER...
TSUK (TRICKLE)
LET ME DO IT.
IF I CAN LOSE THIS DESIRE, I WANT TO.
DO
WHAT I WANT IS—
DO (TWICE)
AND LET ME MAKE ONE THING CLEAR!!
I HAVE ZERO INTEREST IN BEING A PURE-BLOOD!!


YOUR LIIIIFE!!
GOKYA (STRUCK)
SUKA (SWISH)
MROW
AAAAAH!!!


I HAVE TO HIDE SOMEWHERE AND UNSEAL THAT BOOK!
AAAAH!!
GIVE ME THE BOOKS!
KOFF!
NO!! NEVER!!
GORO
GORO
GORO


ACK!
THAT LOOKS REAL BAD.
THE BOOKS.
WHERE ARE THEY?
STOP !!
CLOSE YOUR MOUTH RIGHT NOW!!
OH!
UH, IS SHE CHANTING?
CAPTAIN! IF SHE NEEDS TO BE SEARCHED, I'LL DO IT!


pg:
OH.
SEE? IN HER TROU-SERS—
BWAH HA!
HUH! THEY'RE RIGHT THERE.
ズ
ズ
ズ
ズ
ズ






...HUH?
THAT'S ...
YOU SUMMONED ME, MARCILLE. THANK YOU.
NOW, THEN.
WHAT SHALL WE DO?
CHAPTER 74: THE END


75. LORD OF THE DUNGEON -1-


A DEMON...
MAYBE...
WAIT... IS THAT...
RWAAA CHASH!!

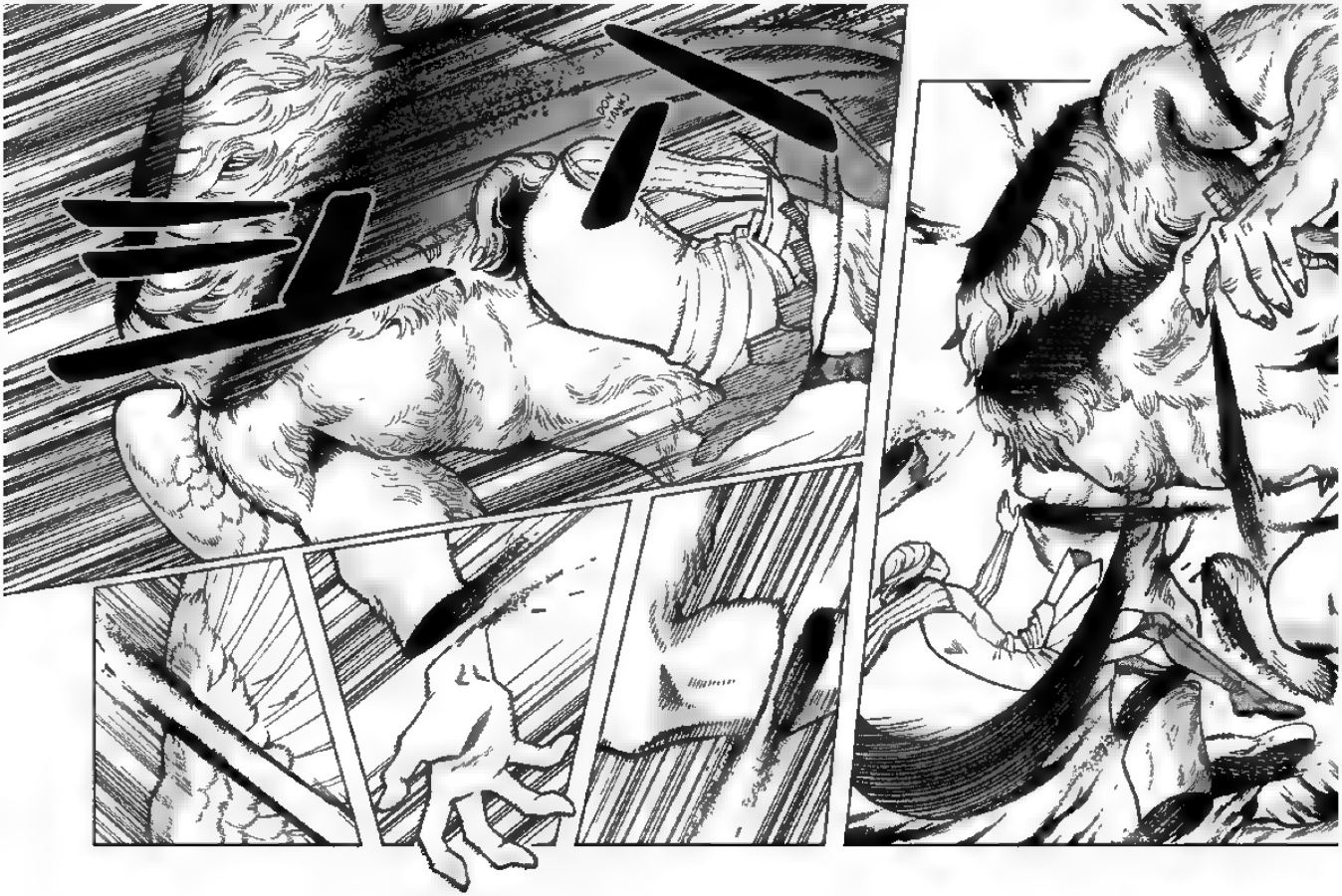

I HAVEN'T BEEN FREE IN A LONG TIME...
...BUT IT SEEMS I WON'T BE ABLE TO TAKE IT EASY.
WHAT WILL WE DO, MARCILLE?
HUH!?
WIELDS YOU!?
YOU MEAN ...
UNLESS SOMEONE WIELDS ME, I CAN'T DO A THING.
AS I SAID, I'M ONLY POWER.
NO IDEA.
WHAT WILL WE DO...?
WHAT SHOULD WE DO!?
GUSHI GUSHI


フッ
FU (PFFT)
フッ
FU
ドス
DOSU
ドス
DOSU (SHUNK)
ドス
DOSU
ドス
DOSU
ガラ…
GARA (SHARD)
ガラ
GARA (CRUMBLE)


HUH?
PA! (DOOR)
TCH!
PATATA (SPATTER)

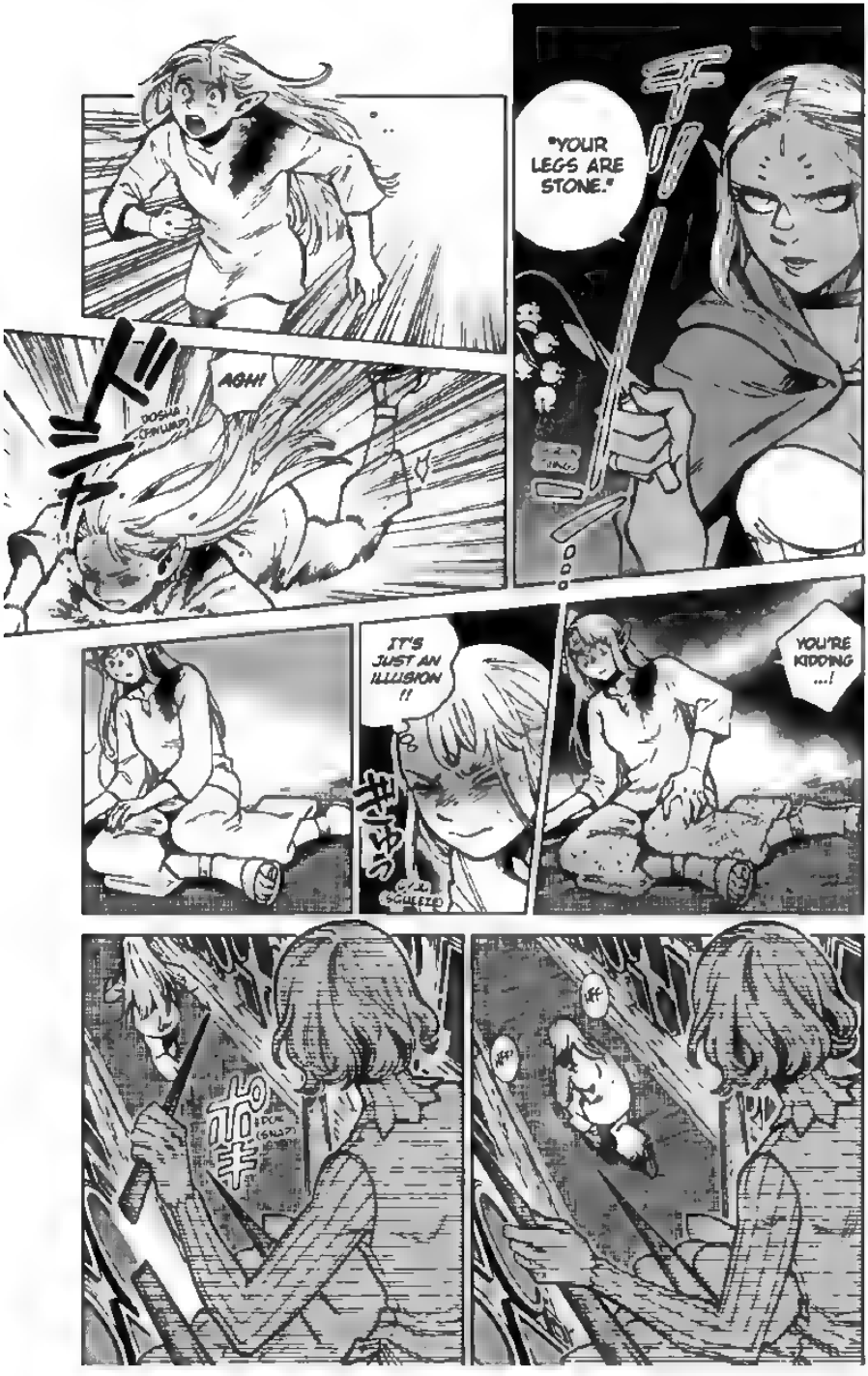

DUBO (SHUMP)
SHE'S STILL JUST AN ADVENTURER.
WHOA, THERE.
THAT'S AGAINST THE RULES—
FU (FFT)
GORON (ROLL)
AAAH! NO WAY!!
BUCHI (SPLAT)
BUCHI
ZURURI (GLIDE)


ZU (CREEP)
YOU DON'T LISTEN, DO YOU.
NU (...OOH)
EEEEK! NO, NO, NO!!
GOOD GRIEF...
YOU ARE INFINITE.
I CAN'T KILL YOU. SO THERE'S NO OTHER WAY.
PUCHI (SNAP)
FU
GU (THUD)




THE CUT AREAS REGENERATE.
WITHRUIN'S GOING TO RUN OUT OF MANA AND COLLAPSE FIRST.
I CAN SPEAK
I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING.
BOKO
BOKO (BLORP)
H-HE'S TELEPORTING HIS CLOAK AND... SHAVING ITS BODY AWAY?
BUT...
THEN PREPARE TO CAST!
Y... YES...
THE REST OF YOU, HELP THE CAPTAIN!
—PAT-TADOL !!
OH!
CAN YOU SEAL THE DEMON WITH A BARRIER !?
POKAN (DAZED)
HEY ...!!
I'LL LEAVE YOU TO IT, THEN!
TA (TMP)
DON'T SCREW WITH US!!
BONAA (GLOW)
OH, RIGHT! A BARRIER...!


DO
DO (SHUNK)
DO
DAMN!
BISHI
PIERCE!
BISHI (KRIK)
BASA (FLAP)
DOTA (THUD)
OW—
DOKU (BADUMP)
HAAHI
BACHU (SKASH)


"YOUR LEGS ARE STONE."
AGH!
DOSHA (FALLING)
IT'S JUST AN ILLUSION !!
GYUU (SQUEEZE)
YOU'RE KIDDING ...!
DOK (SOUND)
HP
HP


URK...
DO
GSHUNKO
GAKUN!
CLURCHO
FU
(FFT)


DOKU (BADMD)
GIVE UP.
THAT WISH COULD NEVER BE GRANTED.
HAAH!
HAAH!
I THINK SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPENED BEFORE
WHAT WAS IT...?
OR MAYBE HE'LL SEND ME SOMEWHERE.
DON'T LET IT BE THE SURFACE...
OH...
I'M GOING TO DIE.


MARCILLE.
IT'LL BE LIKE THIS
"I'M SORRY" WON'T SETTLE THAT!!
DON'T DO IT!!
THEY'LL ARREST YOU!
BUT YOU SEE...
IF YOU END UP SOMEWHERE WEIRD, I'M SORRY.
AND I'M SORRY IF SOMEONE'S THERE ALREADY.
FALIN?
MARCILLE...
...I'M NOT CERTIFIED FOR TELEPORTATION MAGIC. AND I'VE NEVER USED IT BEFORE.
HUH?
...EVEN IF IT MEANS HURTING SOMEONE ELSE...
FALIN.
FALIN, WAIT.
BACK THEN, YOU SAID...
...I WANT YOU AND MY BROTHER TO LIVE, MARCILLE.


UUUHN...
HUH?
FOR NOW, LET'S GET SOMETHING TO EAT, OKAY?
THE PUBLIC DINING HALL ON THE AVENUE HAS CHEAP FOOD—
WOW, WAS I EVER CAREFREE!
...IT'S FLASHING BEFORE MY EYES. THAT REALLY HAPPENS?
— OH! MY LIFE...
FALIN ...?
NO! NEVER!
YUCK!
LET'S EAT THIS.
THE THING IS, I LIKE MONSTERS.
I DIDN'T SEE THE DANGER.
I JUST ASSUMED WE COULD RESURRECT HER RIGHT AWAY.




IT WAS REALLY AWFUL.
I ATE BIZARRE STUFF. I ALMOST D.ED
I DON'T HAVE ANY DECENT MEMORIES, SO I?
BUT...
IF I'D GIVEN UP SOONER...
...THINGS WOULDN'T HURT THIS MUCH.


...HOW COULD I EVER TRULY GIVE UP!?
I MEAN...
...EVEN IF IT MEANT BEING SHOT IN THE LEG, BREAKING THE LAW, BEING TURNED TO STONE, OR HAVING MY LIFE FORCE SUCKED OUT...
...EVEN IF IT MEANT I ENDED UP KILLING AND EATING ALL SORTS OF MONSTERS...
WINGED LION!
...I WANTED ALL OF US TO LIVE!!
WHILE I'M AT IT, I WANT THEM TO LIVE AS LONG AS I DO (A THOUSAND YEARS)!!


I'LL BE THE LORD OF THE DUNGEON...
...SO GRANT MY WISH RIGHT NOW!!
SHIT!
SPLENDID!

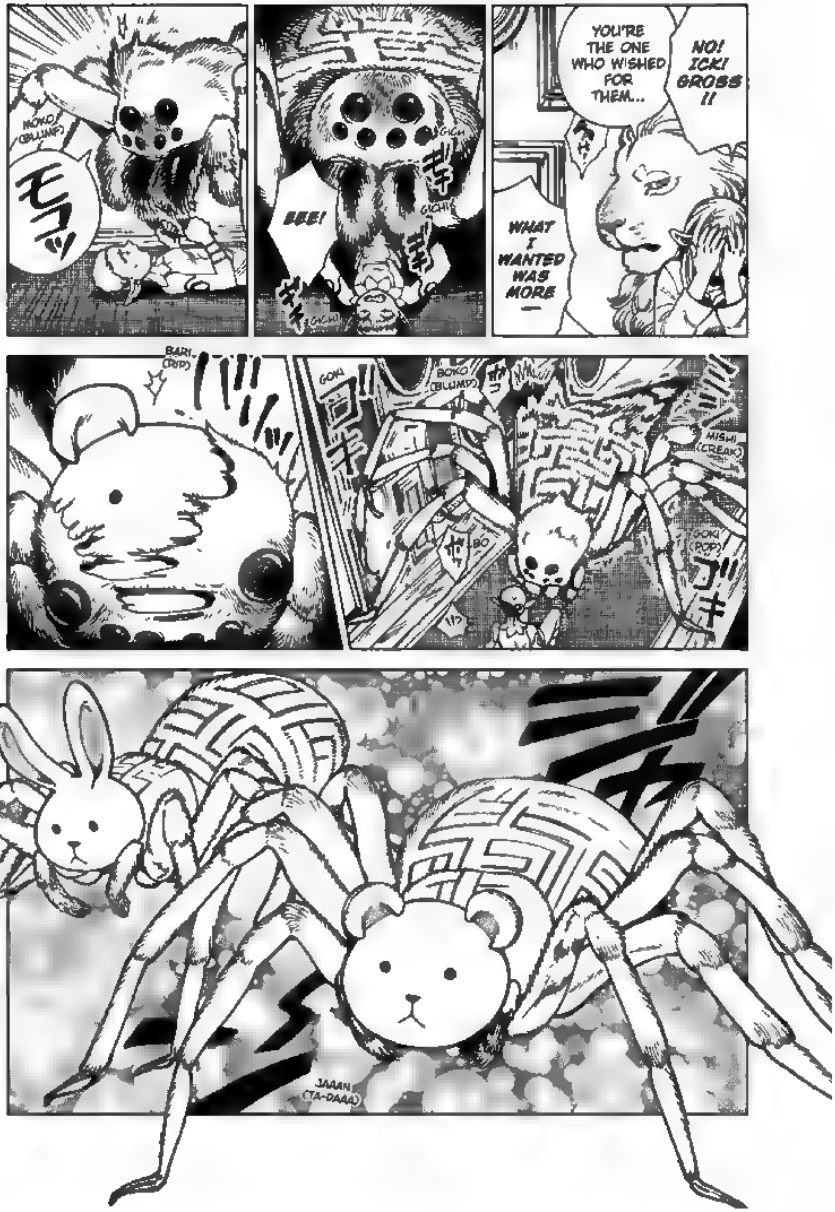

KA
(FLASH)
ZAA
(FSSSH)
ZUA
(CZWOOSH)

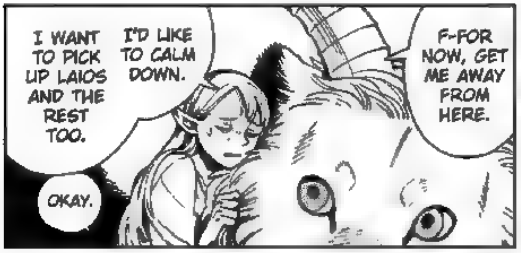

NOW I BELONG TO YOU, MARCILLE.
ALL RIGHT.


...I SHOULD ELIMINATE YOUR ENEMIES, NO?
KM
WHERE SHALL WE START? FRESH CLOTHES? A NEW LAYOUT?
OH, BUT BEFORE THAT...
W-WAIT.
I DON'T WANT YOU TO KILL THEM.
OOPS!
EEK!!
HYOI (DUCK)
DOGU (SHLINK)
AAH!
NOOO!
WHAT WILL WE DO, MARCILLE?
THE ENEMY WON'T WAIT FOR US.
I SEE. UM, UHMM...
ISN'T THERE A WAY TO STOP THEM WITHOUT KILLING THEM!?
YOU'LL HAVE TO THINK IT UP.
MOYA (HAZE)


AH!
IT'S AL-MOST ...
W-WAIT!!
PATTA-DOLI WHERE'S THAT BARRIER!?
PLEKI!?
...KI...
WHAT'S THE MATTER, PLE—


キチキチ
キチキチ
MOCHI MOCHI
EEEEP!
WAAAH!


MOKO! (BLUMP)
モフッ
SEE!
GUCHI
GUCHI
GUCHI
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WISHED FOR THEM...
NO! ICK! GROSS !!
WHAT I WANTED WAS MORE —
BAZH (RIP)
GOKI
BOKO! (BLUMP)
BO
MISHI (CREAK)
GOKI (POP!)
ゴキ
JAAAN (TA-DAAA)


I WANT TO PICK UP LAIOS AND THE REST TOO.
I'D LIKE TO CALM DOWN.
F-FOR NOW, GET ME AWAY FROM HERE.
OKAY.


...YOU MAY DO AS YOU PLEASE, BUT...
...AREN'T THESE WORSE?
IT'S FINE! THEY'RE BETTER.
EEK!
WAAH!


ALL RIGHT.
...REALLY WORRYING ME.
THAT'S BEEN.
I ALSO WANT TO MAKE IT SO FALIN WON'T ROT.


SU (SHIP)


BUON (WHIP)


WA!—
¬GU (GRIP)
WE'LL BE GOING, THEN.
LET'S MEET AGAIN, MITHRUN.

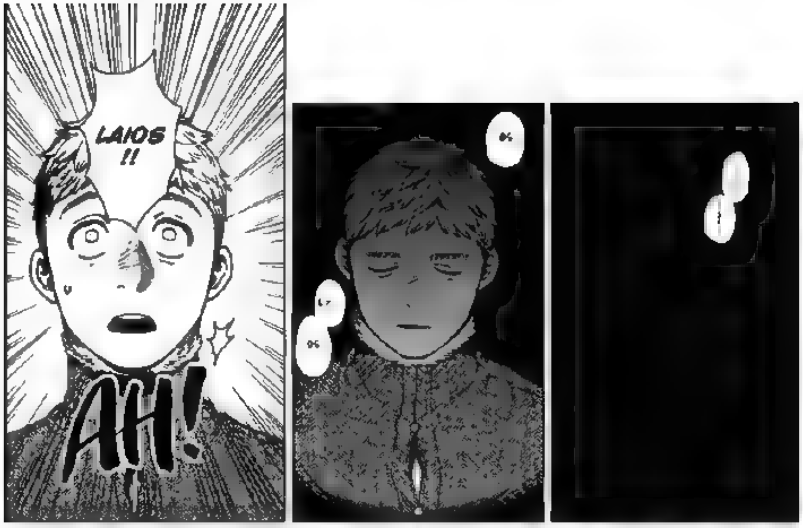

LET'S GO.

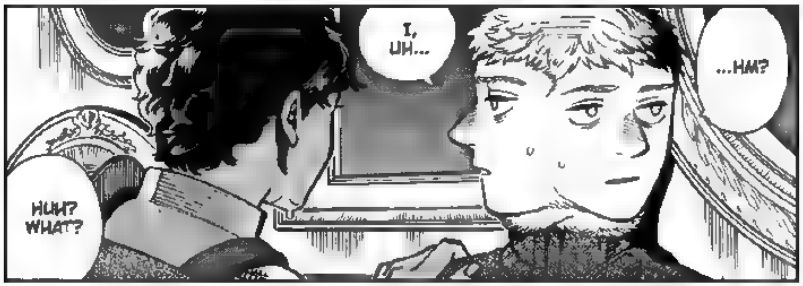

GUCHA (SPLUTCH)

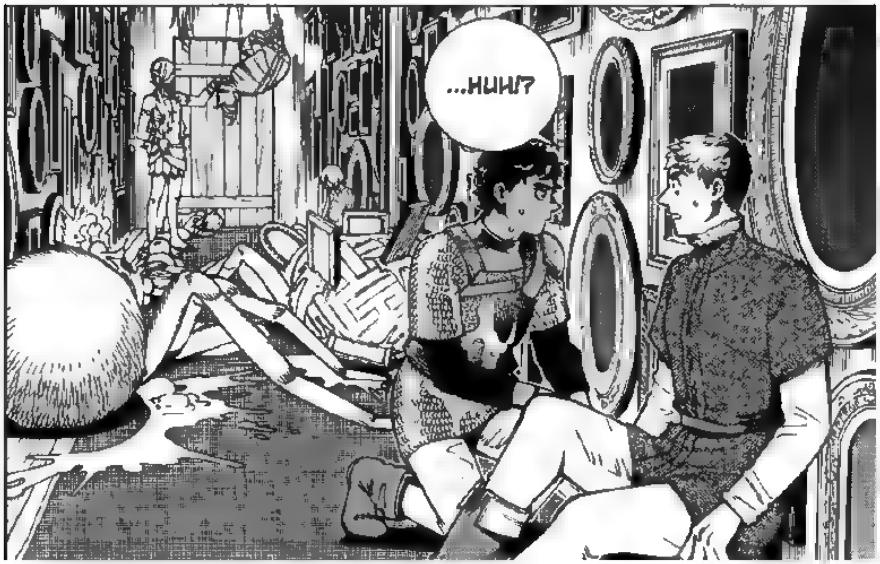

...AND MAKE A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN REST A WHILE.
LET'S GO FIND LAIOS AND COMPANY, THEN FREEZE FALIN...
MM-HMM...
...DO YOU KNOW HIM?
MM, YES.
HE'S AN ENTHUSIASTIC FAN OF MINE.
VERY WELL. I WON'T MENTION IT AGAIN.
PLEASE DON'T.
HUH!? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!?
ABSOLUTELY NOT!!
...BY THE WAY, COULD WE NOT SIMPLY MAKE A NEW FALIN?


ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
UUHH...
MAYBE NOT.
ALL THESE SENSATIONS ARE FLOODING MY MIND.
IT'S INCREDIBLY LOUD...
I THINK YOU'LL GET USED TO IT.
FOR NOW, WANT TO SHUT IT OFF?
IT'S THE DUNGEON'S STATUS AND THE "EYES" SISSEL POSTED.
CAN YOU DO THAT?
HEY, YOU GUYS...
THAT'S A BIT BETTER.
FU OFF!


THEY'RE NOT HERE!!
HUH?
VISUALIZE MONSTERS, THEN. ANY KIND.
ZUKI (THROB)
ズキ
ZUKI
ズキ
MON-STERS ?
DO YOU WANT TO USE THE "EYES"?
MM... I DON'T THINK I COULD.
DID THEY COME TO THEIR SENSES?
WHERE DID THEY GO?
ARGH
THEY WON'T ATTACK LAIOS AND THE OTHERS, WILL THEY?
NO, NO.
トトトトト
TOTATATATA (PATTER)
WE'LL LET THEM SEARCH THE HOUSE.
MOKO (BLUP)
モコモコ
MOKO
POKO (PWLP)
ポコ


LAIOS !!
AH!


I, UH...
...HM?
HUH? WHAT?


...HUH?






THIS WAY.
HYOKO (PEEK)
ひょこ

# Chapter 76


THAT'S STRANGE ...
THE HOUSE'S LAYOUT HAS CHANGED.
KYORO (CLANG)
キョロ
IT ISN'T!
IT BETTER NOT BE PERMA-NENT.
WHAT DID YOU PEOPLE DO TO THEM?

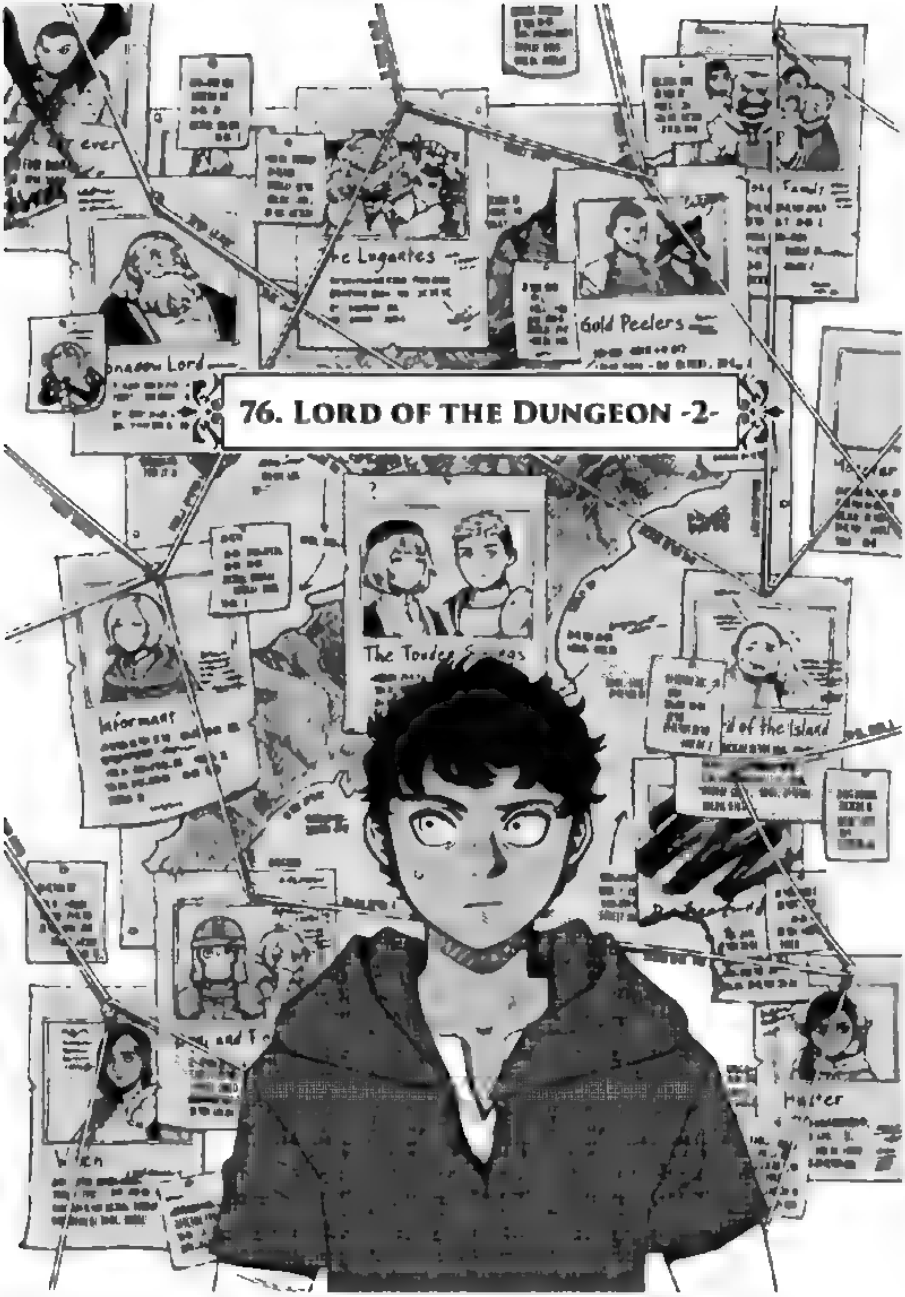

AH!
IT'S LIKE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PLACE...
KUN (SNIFF)
クン
THE AIR'S CHANGED TOO.
NOT JUST THE LAY-OUT.
A DIFFER-ENT...?


PIKU
CTHRTCLO
PIKU
IS SHE DEAD?
NO. SHE'S BREATHING.
THEY GOT WIPED OUT.
WHAA?
WHOA...
MOZO
(SQUIRM)
MOZO
MO
(CLOOP)
EEG.
THE CAPTAIN'S NOT HERE...


ZUBOBOBOBO (SPLORCH)
ズボボボボ
WAAAHHH
I MEAN, HE MUST HAVE TELE-PORTED, BUT—!
WHY WAS HE IN A MON-STER!?
WH-WHA...?
BECHA (SPLAT)
HFF!
GU (GRAB)
HFF!
HFF!
HFF!
FUKA SHAT


BUT YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING IN THAT STATE.
YOU'RE ALMOST OUT OF MANA.
EVERY MOMENT TAKES HER FURTHER OUT OF REACH.
DON'T BE ROUGH WITH THEM!
SHE'S JUST BECOME THE DUNGEON'S LORD. SHE'LL BE EASIEST TO KILL NOW.
GO WHERE?
LET ME GO.
LET'S RE-GROUP FIRST.
BAN (SLAM)
KURU (HOOK)
THERE'S NO TIME...
!
GUTE (SLUMP)
THE CUFFS CAME OFF.
SUSU (SSK)
...YOU COULDN'T BEAT THE DEMON.
IF YOU CAN'T GET OUT OF THIS...
GU
GHK!
GUGU (SQUEEZE)
WHAT—
I KNOW...
...YOU CAN'T TELEPORT WHEN YOU'RE MAKING A LOT OF CONTACT.


THANKS FOR STOPPING THE CAPTAIN
IT WAS STALKING YOU ON THE CEILING.
SORRY!
BIKU (PLUNGE)
HAAAH...
...LAIOS.
GO (WHALE)
WAKE UP!!
LAIOS!!

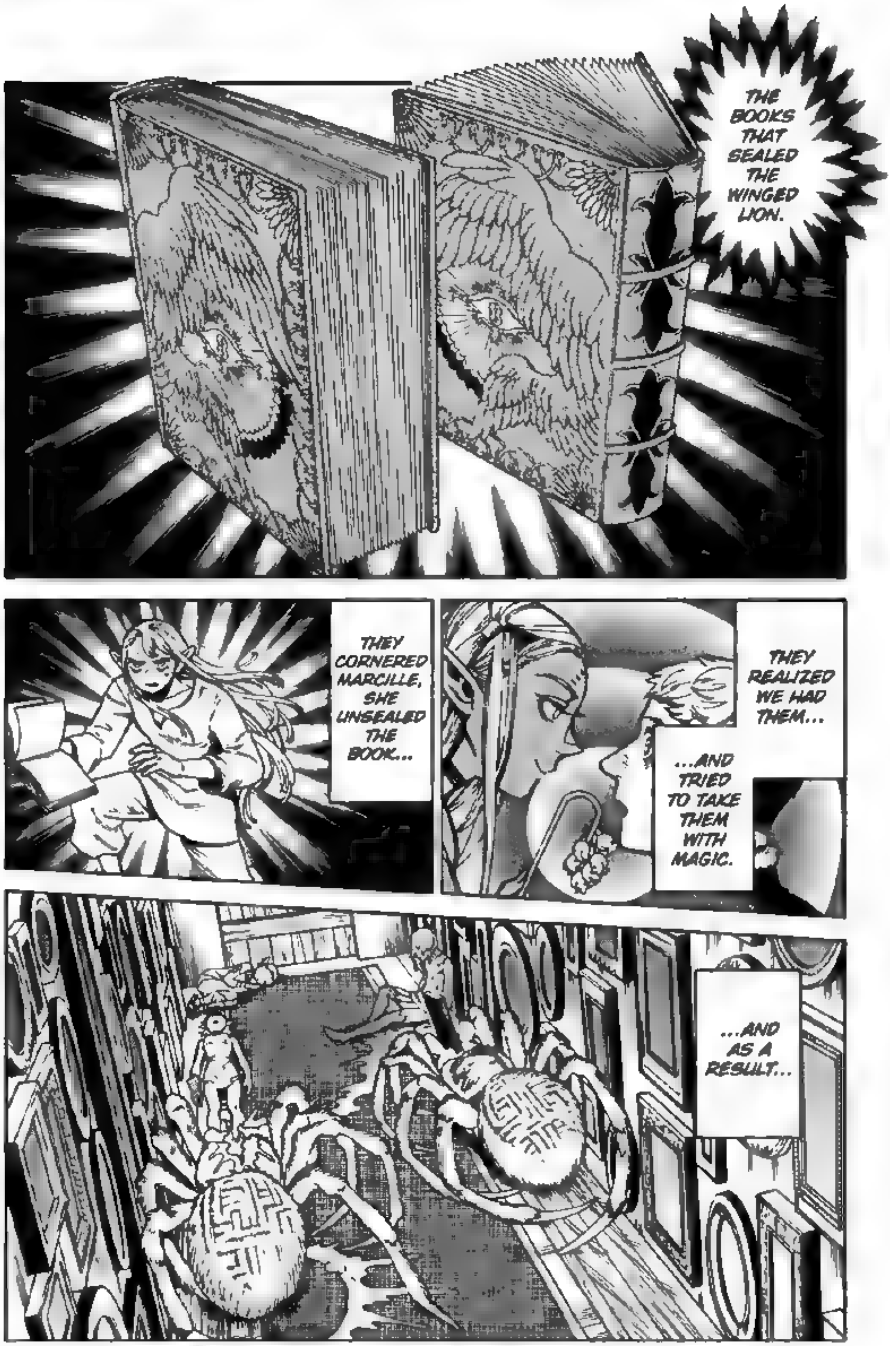

76. Lord of the Dungeon -2-
Gold Peelers
Informant


PIKU
PIKU TWITCH
I'LL EXPLAIN LATER!
I WANT TO TAKE THE WOUNDED AND GET OUT OF HERE RIGHT NOW.
WILL YOU HELP ME?
WHAT HAPPENED?
WHA... WHAT IS THIS?


MARCILLE...
MARCILLE'S NOT HERE.
SURE...
?
NO, WAIT A SECOND.
SHE'S ASLEEP UPSTAIRS.
WE HAVE TO GO GET HER.
SHE'S...
HUH!? WHY NOT...?
...PROBABLY NOT IN THIS HOUSE ANYMORE.
O-OKAY...
I'LL EXPLAIN THAT LATER TOO!
WE NEED TO GET OUTSIDE!


ZORO
ZORO (STOMP)
3
DARAA (DRIBBLE)
GO'A (DRIP)
HFF!
HFF!
YOU WERE WITH MARCILLE, RIGHT?
WHAT HAP-PENED?
IZU-TSUMI!
FWIT!
IZU-TSUMI ...
THERE WAS A REALLY FIERCE FIGHT...


WHEN I FINALLY GOT BACK...
...YOU GUYS WERE ALL STUPID, AND MARCILLE TOOK OFF...
BUTSU
BUTSU (GRUMBLE)
GYO (JOLT)
MAGIC!?
THEY JUST SHOWED UP...
...AND BLASTED ME OUTSIDE WITH MAGIC.
HELL IF I KNOW!
I CAN'T REMEMBER.
DID THEY USE SOME KIND OF SPELL ON US TOO?
MOYA (HAZY)
WE WERE TALKING WITH THEM IN THE STUDY...
...AND THEN...
I CAN ONLY THINK OF ONE.
...BUT I BET THEY CONTACTED US FOR A REASON.
THEY SAID THEY CAME TO INVESTIGATE THE DUNGEON...
THE CANARIES...


THE BOOKS THAT SEALED THE WINGED LION.
THEY CORNERED MARCILLE, SHE UNSEALED THE BOOK...
THEY REALIZED WE HAD THEM...
...AND TRIED TO TAKE THEM WITH MAGIC.
...AND AS A RESULT...


キョロ
KYORO (GLANCE)
I BET SHE'S LONELY BY HERSELF.
WE'LL HAVE TO FIND HER FAST.
THE DUNGEON'S AMBIENCE SEEMS A LITTLE SOFTER.
IT MAY BE THAT MARCILLE'S BECOME ITS LORD.
STILL...
WHERE DID YOU GET THAT SPELL DONE?
IF THE CANARIES ARE AFTER THE WINGED LION, WE CAN'T STAY WITH THEM.
I'LL WATCH FOR A CHANCE TO LOSE THEM.
HUH?


THE WINGED LION SAID TO BEWARE THE CANARIES, BUT-IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR HIM...
...I NEVER WOULD HAVE NOTICED.
...WE'RE LUCKY KABRU WARNED US.
ガチャ
(GACHA) (KACHAK)
PLEASE LET IT BE AN EXIT...
OH!!
(OOK! (BADMP)
A DOOR!






...ALL THE FLOORS HAVE BEEN FUSED INTO ONE!!
GOGOGO
RUMBLE
THE TOPOGRAPHY IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT.
NO, ACTUALLY...
LOOK, THERE'S THE FIRST FLOOR, AND THAT'S THE SECOND!
WH-WHY DID THEY DO THAT?
MARCILLE BECAME THE DUNGEON'S LORD AND CHANGED IT.
SO THAT EVERYONE CAN EAT FALIN'S DRAGON HALF.
WHOA!
I CAN SEE OTHER ADVENTURERS IN THE DISTANCE.
WHAT'S GOING ON?


A HIPPO-GRIFF!?
AND HARPIES...
OH...
MONSTERS FROM THE DEEP FLOORS ARE MOVING INTO SHALLOW TERRI-TORY!!
TH-THE ECO-SYSTEMS ARE BEING SCRAM-BLED!
HM?
IN-WAIT JUST A MINUTE!
WE HAVE TO GO FIND MARCILLE, FAST.
HUH!?
MARCILLE, NO.
YOU CAN'T DO IT LIKE THIS.


PLEASE. JUST UNTIL THE OTHERS WAKE UP.
UH, WHAT?
IF MONSTERS ATTACK NOW, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO PROTECT THE WOUNDED.
THE WOUNDED...
HUH?
I MEAN...
...COULD YOU STAY HERE A LITTLE LONGER, PLEASE?
ONE'S FAMILIAR WAS EATEN WITH HER MIND IN IT, LEAVING HER IN A COMA.
ZZZ...
ONE WAS KNOCKED OUT.
THREE WERE PARALYZED BY SPIDER VENOM.
...SO WE'LL DEAL WITH IT AFTER THE OTHERS WAKE UP.
I CAN'T USE RESURRECTION MAGIC...
I-I SEE...
IT HAPPENS A LOT.
...BUT IF WE KILL HER AND REVIVE HER, SHE'LL BE FINE.
HER BRAIN'S DAMAGED. SHE'S A LOST CAUSE...
THESE FOUR SHOULD WAKE UP IN HALF A DAY, BUT...
...WHAT ABOUT HER...?


WE'RE HEADING OUT.
...I'M SORRY, BUT WE CAN'T LEAVE MARCILLE ON HER OWN ANY LONGER.
IN THAT CASE...
GIVE US A LITTLE MORE TIME!
JUST A LITTLE LONGER!
N—
NO, NO!!
THE WOUNDED NEED NUTRITIOUS FOOD, YOU KNOW?
LOOK...
COULD YOU MAKE US SOMETHING TO EAT?
I'D LIKE TO FEED THEM SOMETHING NICE WHEN THEY WAKE UP.
BUT—
I-I KNOW!


...ENOUGH ALREADY.
YOU DON'T WANT THEM TO MEET THE DUNGEON'S NEW LORD, DO YOU?
YOU'RE SCARED THEY'LL SIDE WITH HER.
RIGHT?
SO!
WOULD YOU KEEP OUT OF THIS?
WE'LL DEAL WITH, UH, MARCILLE, WAS IT?
PON (PAT)
YOU SHOULD JUST ASK THEM STRAIGHT OUT.
THEN QUIT LYING TO BUY TIME.
I SEE.
NO OTHER CHOICE, THEN.
HUH ...?
NO WAY.


ボキ
ボキ
ボキ
ゴキ
NEGOTIA-
TIONS JUST
BROKE
DOWN.
MAST-
MAN
ゴゴゴゴゴ


OOF!
BO (SWOOP)
どた
DOTA (WHUMP)
GULP (SHINK)
...WELL. I GET IT.
YOU SHORT-LIVED RACES WANT TO DEAL WITH THE DUNGEON ON YOUR OWN.
BA (LUNGE)
っば


FORGET USING THAT GUY.
IT'S A WASTE OF TIME.
A WOLF MAN...
YOU CAN'T STAND HOW THE LONG-LIVED RACES TAKE EVERYTHING AWAY.
IF IT WIPES THE ISLAND OFF THE MAP, THOUGH, WHAT'S THE POINT?
BUTTERING HIM UP WITH FLATTERY.
EATING STUFF YOU DON'T WANT TO TOUCH...
YOU DIDN'T WANT TO EAT THAT!?
KNEW IT
EEP!
BA (DROP)
?
NYLR... (SLITHER)
DON'T LISTEN TO HIM!
I'M—


BARI (SCRATCH)
BARI
MROWOW!
WAIT A PAIN!
AAGH
GEEZ!
BA (LEAP)
HURRY, GUYS.
LET'S FIND MARCILLE!
SUKA (SWISH)
スカッ!
UM! LET ME EXPLAIN.
THE DUNGEON'S POWER REALLY IS DANGEROUS—
W—

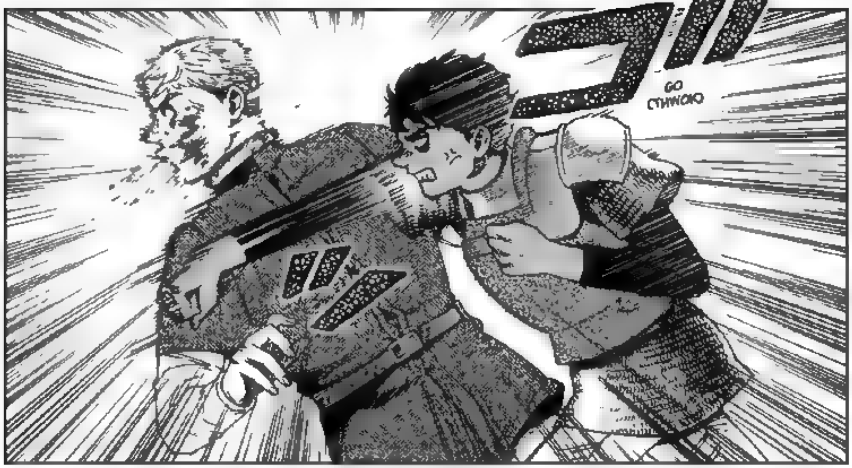

WAIT, PLEASE!!
GUI (TUG)
TA (TAP)


I'M SORRY, I...LIED.
?
I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, BUT...
D-DUNGEONS SEAL DEMONS.
THEY TAKE PEOPLE IN, EAT THEIR DESIRES, AND GROW STRONGER ...
UM...
THE POWER OF THE DUNGEON ISN'T WHAT YOU THINK.
I'M SORRY. THIS ISN'T THE TIME FOR A CONVERSATION.
NO, UM...
I WON'T DO IT AGAIN. FORGIVE ME.
...I'M SORRY I MADE YOU EAT WEIRD THINGS.
KABRU.
THERE'S A REASON I HATE MONSTERS.
WHEN I WAS A KID...

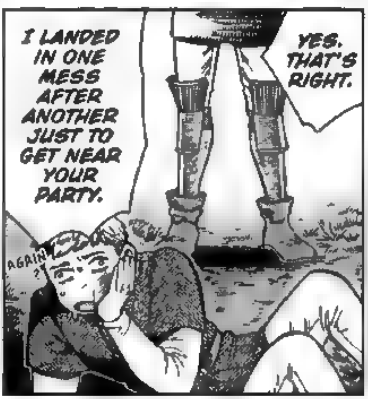

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, I CAN'T LEAVE HER LIKE THIS.
MARCILLE'S LIVED WITH US ALL THIS TIME. SHE'S ONE OF US.
SHE DIDN'T WANT TO EAT MONSTERS EITHER...
...BUT SHE WENT THROUGH ALL SORTS OF TROUBLE FOR MY SISTER'S SAKE.
BUT...
NO DOUBT ...
...HE'D JOIN FORCES WITH THE DEMON FOR A FRIEND'S SAKE.
THAT'S ...
YOU'VE COME TO SEE US SEVERAL TIMES.
WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TELL US?
I CAN'T FIND THE WORDS.
N-NO, THAT WASN'T IT.
H-HUH?
UM...I MEAN...
WHAT AM I SAYING?
...NO, UH, I'M FROM A TOWN CALLED UTAYA...
AND, UM...
IT WAS NEAR A DUNGEON, AND ONE DAY, MONSTERS...
UM.
YOU WERE TRYING TO CONQUER THE DUNGEON... NO.
FOR THEIR OWN REASONS, LOTS OF PEOPLE...
...ON THE ISLAND WERE...


SORRY, BUT I NEED TO HURRY.
ぱっ
PA (TUG)
NO...
I HAVE TO STOP HIM.
IF HE WON'T LISTEN, I'LL HAVE TO KILL HIM.
HE COULD BECOME A THREAT TO ALL MANKIND!!
WHAT DO I DO?
WHAT DO I WANT TO DO!?
I—I
I— WANTED TO BE FRIENDS WITH YOU!!


HUH?
HUH!?
BA (PWP)
EVEN I CAN TELL THAT'S A LIE.
"FRIENDS"?
HEH!
EVEN THOUGH YOU DIED SO MANY TIMES?
YOU WENT INTO THE DUNGEON OVER AND OVER FOR THAT?
HA HA HA!
THERE ARE EASIER WAYS TO MAKE FRIENDS, YOU KNOW.
YOU LIED? YOU EVEN ATE MONSTERS?
NO, THAT'S NOT...
EXCUSE ME. THAT'S NOT IT!!


GO (THWACK)


I TRIED TALKING TO YOU OUTSIDE, BUT YOU WEREN'T INTERESTED.
SUTA (STRIDE)
JUST A...
THAT MEANT EATING MONSTERS WAS THE ONLY WAY!!


I LANDED IN ONE MESS AFTER ANOTHER JUST TO GET NEAR YOUR PARTY.
YES. THAT'S RIGHT.
AGAIN?!


GASU (THUD)


EVEN NOW, I DON'T KNOW.
I'M STILL TORN.


IF SOMEBODY TURNED UP WHO'S OBSESSED WITH THEM...
...OF COURSE I'D WANT TO KNOW IF HE WAS A THREAT TO MANKIND.


I HATE MONSTERS.
I WISH THEY'D ALL DIE OFF.


THAT'S WHAT I'M AFTER!
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO TALK WITH YOU!
I WANTED YOU TO BE INTERESTED IN HUMANS TOO!
BUT I DON'T WANT TO KILL YOU.
THERE'S SO MUCH I WANT TO ASK YOU.
LIKE WHY YOU LIKE MONSTERS SO MUCH. WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT THEM.
SO PLEASE!
STAY HERE!!
.....
HFF!
HFF!
HFF!


KURU (SPIN)
KURU
KURU
MROW!
BUON (FLING)
DOSA (WHUMP)
ZUN (STOMP)
JIRI (TENSE)
I'LL PROMISE YOU THIS, THOUGH.
I CAN'T DO THAT.
...I'M SORRY, KABRU.


NOT MONSTERS, OF COURSE! AT A PLACE ON THE SURFACE!
I SWEAR I'LL COME BACK WITH MARCILLE.
ONCE I DO, LET'S ALL GO OUT TO EAT SOMETIME.
DON (SHOVE)
—FINE, ALREADY. GO!!
GRAH!
LET'S GET—
しゃっ


HUH?
ドボ
DOBO
(SPLOOSH)
DOBOOON
WAAAH!


YOU'D BETTER KEEP THAT PROMISE.
IDIOT...
ARRRGH!
WHAT A PAIN IN THE BUTT!

# Translation Notes

**Page 10**
**Laios's "battle royal" comment actually refers to "*kodoku*," a type of poison-magic that found its way into Japanese folklore from China. To create the poison, a spellcaster would put several poisonous creatures into a vessel and let them kill each other until only one was left. The remaining creature was believed to have absorbed the poison of all the others and could be used to cast curses to control or kill people.**

**Page 53**
***Acqua pazza*** **(literally "crazy water") is an Italian method of preparing poached white fish or the light broth used to poach it. The recipe originated with Neapolitan fishermen who would sauté the day's catch in seawater, so in a way Laios's version is actually pretty traditional.**

**Page 77**
**Foie gras is a delicacy made from the liver of a duck or goose that has been fattened by force-feeding.**

**Page 108**
**Bavarois is a type of sweet pudding made of milk, eggs, and gelatin with whipped cream folded into it just before it's chilled. It's usually poured into a mold to set.**

*To be continued...*


THEY LOVE PRECIOUS METALS AND TEND TO HOARD THEM.
THEY REALLY FIT THE IMAGE WE HAVE OF DRAGONS!
GREEN DRAGONS ARE FOUND ALL OVER THE WORLD.
THEY HAVE LONG NECKS, SLIM GREEN BODIES, AND BIG WINGS.
MISC. MONSTER TALES 11
GREEN DRAGON
THEY'LL SPICE IT UP AND MAKE YOU A LEGEND.
YOU SHOULD GO TELL A BARD WHAT YOU'VE DONE HERE.
THEN YOU'LL BE...
AND THEN, A HERO!
A GREEDY DRAGON KIDNAPS A NOBLE
THE PEOPLE SUFFER.
...AND THEY [redacted] IN MORE STORIES?
MAYBE THEIR METAL COLLECTING BROUGHT THEM CLOSER TO SETTLEMENTS, CAUSING TROUBLE...
I KNEW YOU'D SAY THAT.
THEY SHOULDN'T JUST LOSE TO HUMANS.
I...WANT DRAGONS TO BE THE STRONGEST ONES.
HUH?
HE DIDN'T LIKE THAT.
WHY NOT?
LAIOS THE DRAGONSLAYER
LAIOS THE MURDERER
YEAH, NOT GOOD!
HM?
A DRAGONSLAYER SLAYER! I LIKE THAT!
THEN I'D BE...
JUST BE A DRAGON-SLAYER SLAYER, THEN.
THAT'S WHY I HATE DRAGON-SLAYER LEGENDS.
THEY USUALLY USE CHEAP TRICKS ANYWAY


HUGE SPIDERS
THEY HAVE ODD HEADS...
BUT FROM THOSE MARKINGS, THEY'RE DEFINITELY ARIADNES.
HUM.
SOME SPIDERS SPIN WEBS AND WAIT FOR THEIR PREY...
...WHILE OTHERS GO OUT AND HUNT.
THESE CHASE PREY INTO TRAPS THEY'VE LAID WITH THEIR SILK...
...MEANING THEY DO BOTH.
THEIR SILK IS STRONG. THEY EVEN TRAP SMALL DRAGONS SOMETIMES.
HMM.
IN THE WEST, I HEAR THERE'S A WEAVING TECHNIQUE THAT USES THEIR SILK.
CHIRA (GLANCE)
HOW ABOUT THAT.
CHIRA
...I THINK THAT ARMOR MAY BE MADE OF IT.
OH, IS IT?
COULD I TOUCH IT?
ISN'T IT THE SAME AS WHAT THE ONE YOU'RE CARRYING HAS ON?
YOU'LL GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY.
WELL.... UH..
YOU MEAN YOU WANT TO SEE WHAT THE SPIDER'S GUT JUICES TASTE LIKE!?
OH— NO!


...THEY'RE A FAMOUS CREATURE, WHOSE NAMES AND LEGENDS ARE KNOWN ALL OVER THE WORLD.
WEREWOLF, JIN-ROH, LYCAN-THROPE, LOUP-GAROU...
A WOLF-MAN!!
WOLF-MAN
REAL?
TO BE HONEST, I USED TO WANT TO BE A WOLF-MAN...
WHAT HAPPENED TO BEING A RANCHER?
...UNDER THE FULL MOON.
THE STORIES VARY.
.. BUT THE MOST WIDESPREAD IS THAT THEY NORMALLY APPEAR HUMAN, BUT BECOME WOLVES...
THEY HIT IT OFF. .
THEN THAT'S ACQUIRED !?
WOOOW! ♡
I FOUGHT HARD FOR IT.
YEAH, I DID A TON OF WORK TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.
I GOOO GET THAT.
YOU DO!?
SOMETHING I THOUGHT WAS FAR OUT OF REACH...
...IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME...!!
THAT'S INCREDIBLE.


...WHAT?
OH... SO IT'S THAT KIND OF.....
THE SOUL BELONGED TO A DOG-TYPE MONSTER...
...BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND.
DUNNO.
I DIDN'T CARE.
WHAT SORT OF WOLF ARE YOU?
YOUR EARS... ARE PRETTY LONG.
YOUR MANE TOO.
SO WHAT?
YOU MEAN YOU'RE STILL HUMAN ON THE INSIDE?
IT JUST CHANGED HOW YOU LOOK?
HUH!?
IT'S MY BODY NOW.
THERE'S NO POINT IN KNOWING THAT.
WELL... I WOULD'VE WANTED TO KNOW ITS HABITS AND WHAT IT ATE.
OH, IT'S JUST. YOU'RE NOT THE WOLF-MAN I ASPIRED TO BE...
WHAT.
...IS THAT IT?
THAT'S WHAT I WANTED!
...PUTTING ON A PAIR OF EARS AND CALLING YOURSELF A BEAST-MAN?
ISN'T THAT A LOT LIKE...
YOU HAVE COMMON INTER-ESTS! DON'T FIGHT!!
ENOUGH !!
BEAST-MAN WANNABE.

# 11

## DELICIOUS IN DUNGEON

## RYOKO KUI

**Translation: Taylor Engel** **Lettering: Abigail Blackman**

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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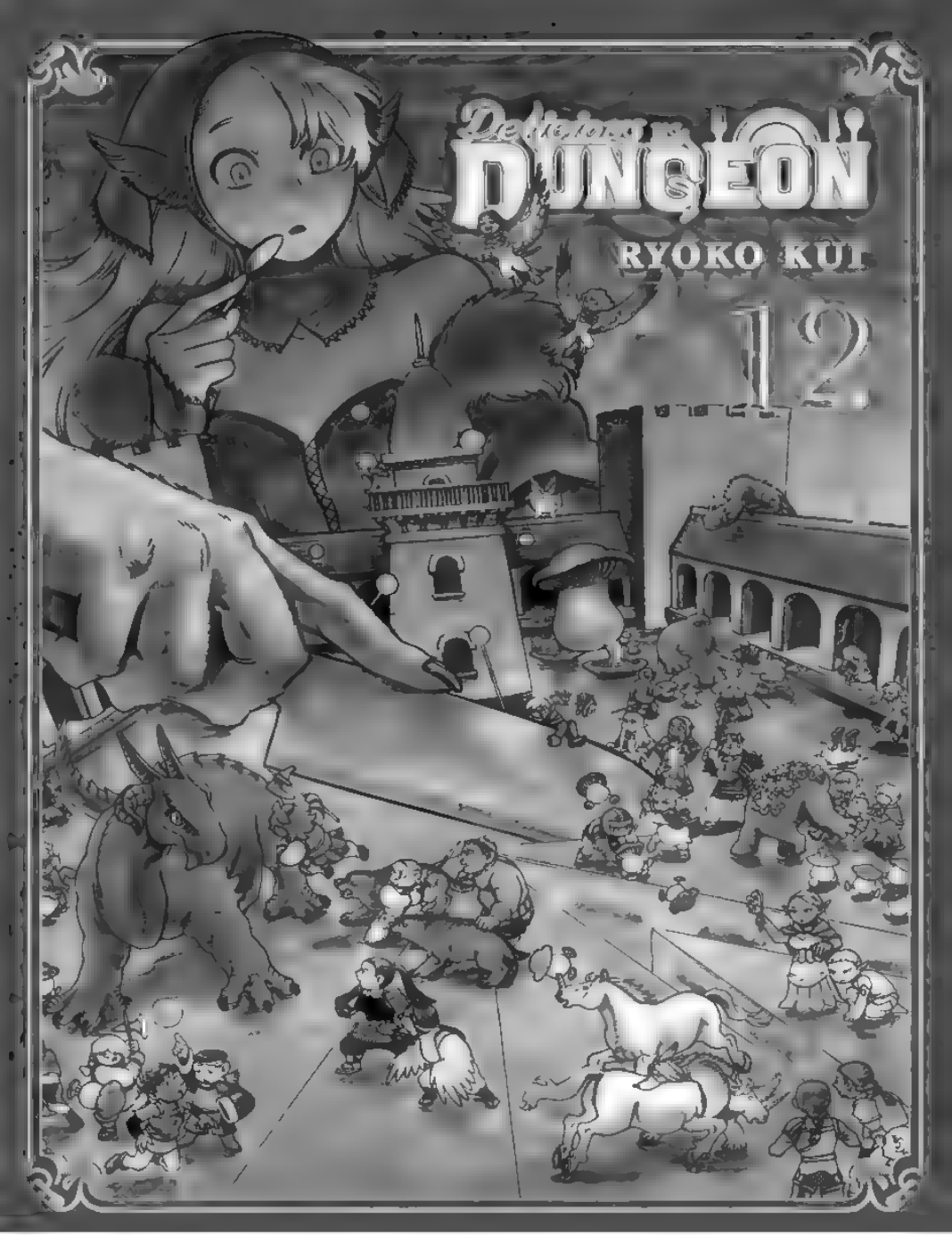
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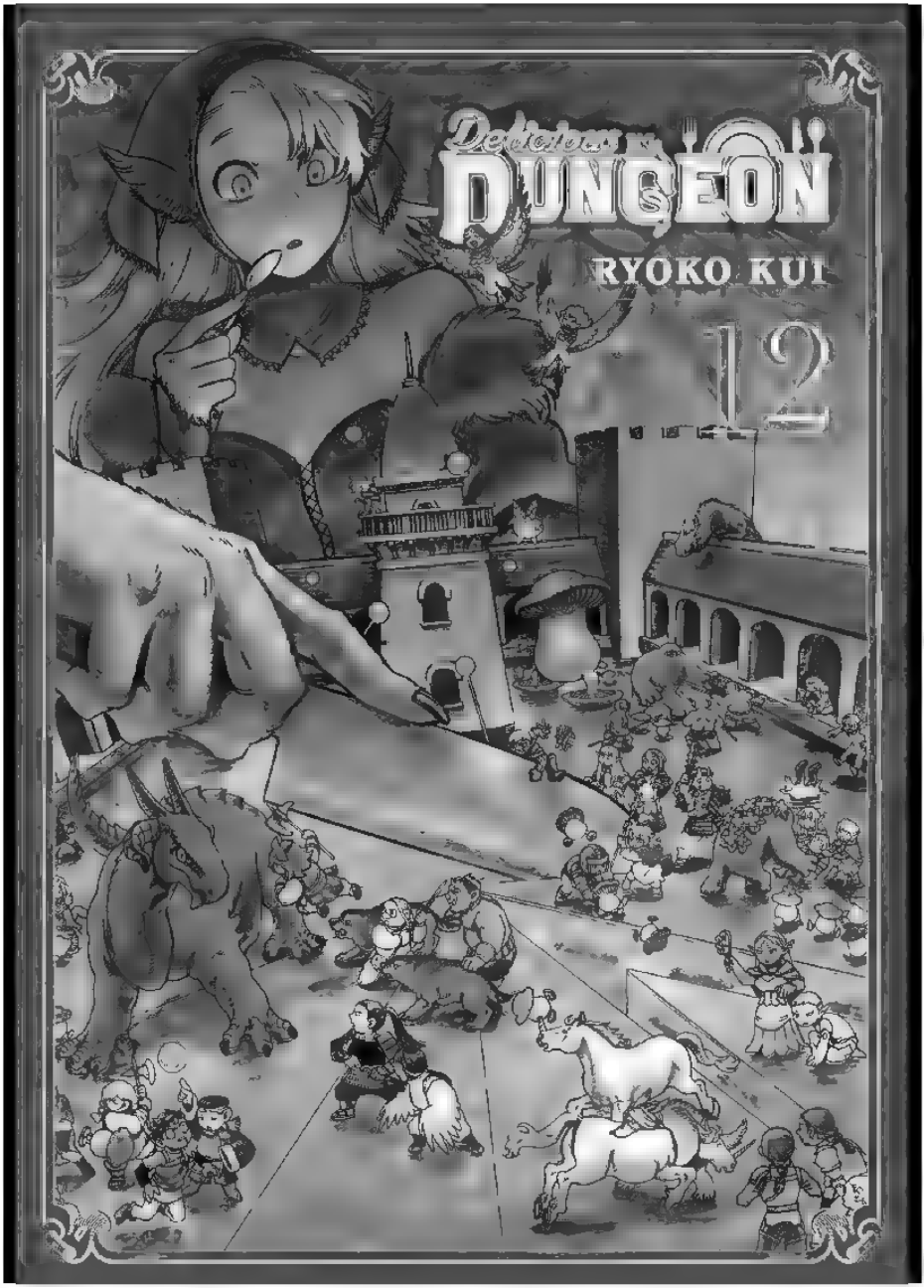
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# Delicious in Dungeon



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12

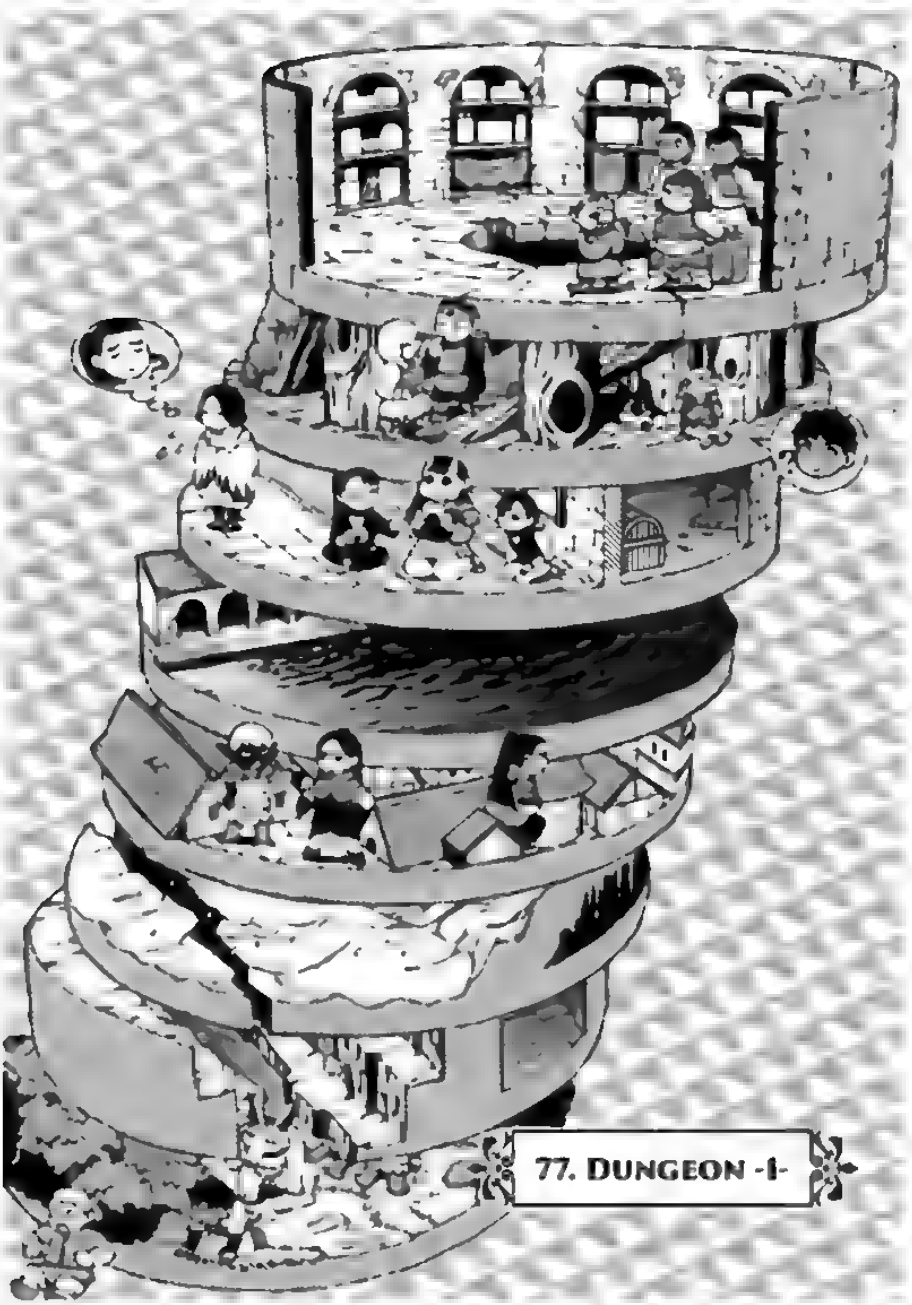
# Delicious in Dungeon

12

*Contents*

*Chapter 77* **DUNGEON -1-** — 005
*Chapter 78* **DUNGEON -2-** — 017
*Chapter 79* **PARASITES** — 041
*Chapter 80* **THE FOOD CHAIN** — 071
*Chapter 81* **LOCAL CUISINE** — 097
*Chapter 82* **MARCILLE -1-** — 129
*Chapter 83* **MARCILLE -2-** — 141
*Chapter 84* **MARCILLE -3-** — 167
*Chapter 85* **MARCILLE -4-** — 203
*Bonus* **MISCELLANEOUS MONSTER TALES -12-** — 236





## 77. DUNGEON -1-


.....THIS IS WHY I SAID NOT TO CHARGE AHEAD ON YOUR OWN...
HUHN!? I DIDN'T QUITE CATCH THAT!!
SAY IT AGAIN, I DARE YOU!!
WE FELL INTO THAT PIT ON THE FIRST FLOOR YESTERDAY.
IT'S WHAT!?
I SAID, IT'S YOUR FAULT THIS HAPPENED.
WE LOST OUR WAY, COULDN'T GET BACK...
SHUT UP!
...AND FOR THE CROWNING BLOW—
ZA (SKT)


...WE GOT CAPTURED BY ORCS.
QUIET DOWN, OR I'M FEEDING YOU TO THE WARGS.
OUT OF THE DUNGEON ...?
YOU'RE GOING TO GET US OUT OF THE DUNGEON SAFELY.
...YOU PEOPLE ARE HOSTAGES.
HMPH.
YOU TALK BIG, BUT CAN YOU BACK IT UP?
IF YOU WANT A FIGHT, BRING IT.
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE HOSTAGES!
BUT IF WE TRY TO LEAVE, THE HUMANS WILL STOP US.
.....
Hello?
Are you there?
I DON'T THINK THAT WILL WORK...
IT'S GONE ALL FUNNY LATELY.
WE DON'T WANT TO GO, BUT WE HAVE TO.
WE CAN'T STAY HERE ANY LONGER.


This is Pattadol.
—Can anyone hear me?
...FLAMELA HERE. WHAT DO YOU NEED, PATTADOL?
DON'T SAY ANY-THING STUPID.
IS THAT A FRIEND? ANSWER HER.
The sub-ject's name is...
IT CAN'T BE.
THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN HAS BEEN DEFEAT-ED...!?
We're getting his story now.
We're with an adventurer who may have defeated the dungeon lord.


That is all. I'll report in again!
PUTSU (CLICK)
...Laios?
PSST... PSST...
Laios Touden!
LAIOS!?
LAIOS!?
LAIOS?
HUH!?


THEY SAID ALL THIS STRANGENESS IS PROOF THAT THE DUNGEON'S LORD HAS FALLEN.
NOT SO LOUD!
I OVERHEARD THE ELVES GOSSIPING ABOUT IT.
THERE'S NO WAY...
LAIOS TOOK DOWN THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN!?
SHH!
...WHAT HAPPENS NOW?
S-SO, UH...
WHAT, THAT MR. LAIOS?
LAIOS DID?
THE TOU-DENG?
LAIOS?
WAIT, "IF HE COMES BACK"?
WHY WOULDN'T HE COME BACK?
HUH... THAT'S ALL...?
NO DOUBT THE LORD OF THE ISLAND WILL GIVE HIM A MEDAL AND THE BOUNTY.
IF HE COMES BACK TO THE SURFACE QUIETLY, THEN ALL'S WELL.


HUH!?
I IMAGINE THE ELVES FEAR...
...HE WILL BECOME THE NEW LORD OF THE DUNGEON.
...IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE?
WELL, IT...ISN'T IMPOSSIBLE.
HA HA HA!
SERIOUSLY, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
...NAH, LAIOS DOESN'T CARE ABOUT STUFF LIKE THAT!
ARE YOU SURE?
WHAT ABOUT HIS COMPANIONS?
I BESTOW MY ENTIRE KINGDOM—
"...UPON THE ONE WHO DEFEATS THE MAGICIAN." IS THAT WHAT THAT MEANT?
IT'S NOT UNCOMMON FOR DUNGEONS TO GAIN NEW LORDS.
THOSE LORDS CAN MANIPULATE THE DUNGEON'S INTERIOR AT WILL.
YEAH, YEAH...
OH, RIGHT.
IF YOU NOTICE ANYTHING ODD, REPORT IT AT ONCE.
THAT SAID, WHEN THE LORD CHANGES, SO DOES THE DUNGEON.
ENIGMA
GREED
N
N


UU.. YOUNG MASTER...
WE'RE GONNA GO FIND HIM.
WE'LL BE BACK IN A DAY OR TWO.
I DO FEEL SORRY ABOUT THAT.
I KNOW THAT!
THE THING IS, HE'S A FRIEND OF MINE.
A FEW DAYS AGO, THIS GUY SHURO FELL INTO THAT PIT...
...AND HE HASN'T COME BACK.
GURA (JUMP)
TO (THUD)
I'LL KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR ANY WEIRDNESS WHILE I'M DOWN THERE.
ANYWAY, I'M OFF—
ZU (SLIDE)
YORO (STAGGER)
NGH!
MR. TANBU !!
GO
GO
ZUGO (RUMBLE)
WHOA !!
ANOTHER TREMOR !?


MR. TANSU !?
AAAAH!?
I'LL CATCH YOU!
JUMP !!
KH!
DOSAA (WHUMP)
YOU SHOULD GET BACK UP TOP.
IF WE GET ANOTHER TREMOR LIKE THAT, IT'LL BE—
ARE YOU OKAY, MR. TANSU?
MOSTLY ...
THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE...
... WHEW ...


SNK
CRUNCH
WHERE DID IT COME FROM!?
WHAT THE HECK!?
IT JUST ROSE UP FROM BELOW.
THE FOREST!?
RUSTLE
WE'VE GOT MAN-EATING PLANTS OVER HERE!
A BASI-LISK!!
KYOKO (GLANCE)
...AND THE BIG TREES FROM THE SECOND FLOOR? WHY—
A BASILISK, MAN-EATING PLANTS...
LOOK OUT FOR ITS POISON TAL-ONS!


NAMARI?
...SHURO?
WHAT ARE HUMANS DOING ALL THE WAY DOWN HERE!?
YOUNG MASTER !!
A HORDE OF ORCS!!
WHEN DID THEY CLIMB THIS HIGH...!!?


THEY DIDN'T "COME" HERE.
NO, THAT'S NOT IT...
THE DUNGEON CHANGED SHAPE!
...SOMEONE IN LAIOS'S PARTY...
...HAS BECOME THE DUNGEON'S NEW LORD.
THAT WRETCH MITHRUN BLEW IT.
TCH.
MR. TANSU...
I'D SAY GRIFFINS.
ARE THOSE DRAG-ONS?
IN SHORT...
THERE'S NO ROOM FOR DOUBT.
ARE THEY GETTING CLOSER?
IS THIS, UH...


78. DUNGEON -2-


PIKU
(THUMP)
PIKU
GO
(THUD)
!E
!!
HAMARI! BEHIND YOU!!
BUT IF WE RETREAT, THE MONSTERS WILL GET OUT OF THE—
THE MONSTERS ARE BEING ATTRACTED BY ALL THESE PEOPLE.
THIS IS GOING NO-WHERE!
THEY JUST KEEP COMING!


HYUN (SWOOSH)
DOSHAAA (PWUMP)
RA!!!
RA!!!
NOW!!
NEVER MIND THAT, LAIOS IS...
HEY, SHURO! YOU'RE OKAY, HUH?
OH YEAH! THAT! ABOUT THAT!!
NAMARI.
THE ORCS ARE HELPING US...!?


YEAH, AND NOW HE'S THE DUNGEON'S LORD!?
LAIOS'S PARTY DEFEATED THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN—
WHAT?
I SEE.
SO THAT'S WHAT THIS IS.
HECK IF I KNOW...
WHAT'S TH S ABOUT !?
I'VE HEARD OF THIS LAIOS AND HIS GROUP OF TROUBLE-MAKERS.
OUR COMPANIONS ENCOUNTERED THEM RIGHT BEFORE WE LOST CONTACT.
THEY MUST HAVE TRIED TO STOP HIM FROM BECOMING THE NEW LORD AND WERE DEFEATED.


ALL UNITS!
FIND LAIOS, THE NEW LORD OF THE DUNGEON, AND SLAY HIM!
THE DUNGEON LORD?
A NEW ONE...?
WHO?
WHO?
WH-WHOA, HANG ON.
THERE HAS TO BE A MISTAKE.
LAIOS ISN'T THAT KIND OF GUY.
I HEAR HE HAS AN INTENSE LOVE FOR MONSTERS...
...AND NO INTEREST IN HUMAN SOCIETY.
URK.
WE HAVE TO STOP HIM.
BUT WHY, EXACTLY!?
IF THE REPORTS ON HIM ARE ACCURATE, WE'LL HAVE TROUBLE.
HE'LL BE FAR WORSE THAN THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN, WHO CARED ABOUT NOTHING BUT PRESERVING A KINGDOM.

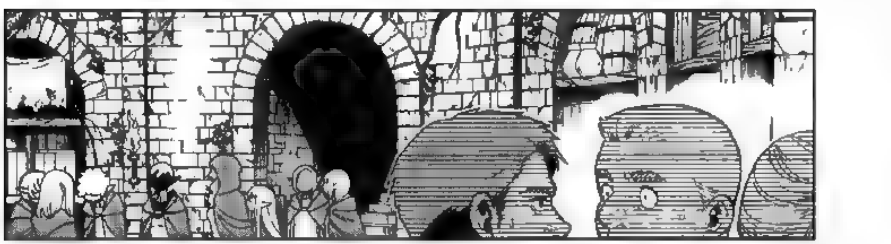

ASSEMBLE THE BARRIER CASTERS!
YES'M.
THE DUNGEON IS EXPANDING.
IT'S DANGEROUS TO LET THIS GO ON.
THE MONSTERS ARE MAKING FOR THE SURFACE.
WHOA, WHOA. CALM DOWN.
IS IT GROWING LIKE WHEN THE DUNGEON SWALLOWED THE GRAVE-YARD?
SO THE TOWN'S GONNA ...
WHAT'S THAT MEAN?
THE DUNGEON IS EX-PANDING?
ZAWA (MRMR)
THIS IS WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE IMMATURE RACES...
WHOEVER DOESN'T LIKE IT CAN LEAVE.
WE'LL BE ABLE TO PEEL GOLD AGAIN!
HEY, YEAH.
E-EXCUSE ME...!
THE DUNGEON'S EXPANDING? SO WHAT?
SURE, THERE ARE MONSTERS IN HERE, BUT WE CAN ALSO MAKE MONEY AND REVIVE IF WE DIE.


GROW UP.
OUR JOB IS TO REPORT ON EXACTLY THIS TYPE OF SITUATION, AND YOU KNOW IT.
B-BUT...
SO THIS IS DIFFERENT FROM A REGULAR DUNGEON SURVEY?
W-WE WEREN'T TOLD THE SITUATION WAS THIS BAD.
PL-PLEASE LET ME WRITE A LETTER.
WE HAVEN'T TOLD OUR FAMILIES GOOD-BYE PROPERLY.
HIC!
HIC!
UH...
NH...
UU...
WHAT THE HECK!?
THINGS ARE THAT BAD?
WHERE ARE THOSE BARRIER CAST-ERS!?
DISPATCH ALL THE FAMILIARS YOU CAN CONTROL!
GASU
CTHWOO
ガス
IF YOU'VE GOT THAT KIND OF TIME, GET TO WORK!


IF YOU KEEP STANDING THERE SNIVELING, ANYWAY.
EEP!
THAT'S RIGHT.
WELL...
DO YOU MEAN...
...THIS PLACE MIGHT BECOME ANOTHER LITAYA?
BUT THIS TIME...
AFTER ALL, WE MANAGED TO CONTAIN THE ONE IN LITAYA.
...IF IT'S ONLY THAT BAD, WE'LL BE LUCKY.


THE LAYOUT MAY SHIFT DRASTICALLY.
RESURRECTIONS MAY NO LONGER BE POSSIBLE.
PEOPLE MAY TURN INTO MONSTERS.
THE WORST THING ABOUT THIS...
...IS THAT THE DUNGEON'S RULES CHANGE DEPENDING ON ITS LORD.
...AT ANY RATE.
BASA (FWSH)
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN LAIOS DOES? HE LOVES MONSTERS.
WILL HE MAKE MONSTERS FOR FUN?
OR TURN PEOPLE INTO THEM? CAN YOU SWEAR TO ME THAT HE WON'T?
SOONER OR LATER, DUNGEON LORDS ALWAYS GO INSANE.


SUPER-ULTI-MATE
THE ULTRA BRILLIANT
QUINTUPLE-HEADED DRAGON!!!
IT'S FINALLY DONE!
WE COMPLETELY CAN'T!!




LISTEN!
ばっ
BA (PWP)
RIGHT.
WE'VE ASSEMBLED THE BARRIER CASTERS.


HEY! HELP US!
B-BUT THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE IN HERE.
WHAT HAPPENS TO THEM?
DOYO DOYO
DOYO
DOYO


ARE YOU DONE?
OO CHOKO
YES...
USE YOUR FAMILIARS TO FIND LAIOS.
THE DUNGEON HAS GREATER VISIBILITY IN ITS NEW FORM. THIS IS OUR CHANCE.
ON IT.
... HUH?
ACTUALLY, UM...
THAT WAS FAST!?
I FOUND HIM! THEY'RE SPLASHING AROUND IN THAT LAKE OVER THERE!


I SUSPECT THEY'LL DIE IF WE JUST LEAVE THEM ALONE.
NO. MAKE SURE.
...THEY SEEM TO BE DROWNING.
GU (TENSE)
GU GU
YEG'M.
WAIT!!
HM...
HEY... WHAT SHOULD WE DO, SHURO?


WE WON'T TOLERATE ANY MORE OF THIS HIGH-HANDED-NESS.
I DON'T UNDER-STAND.
HOW DO YOU STAND TO BENEFIT ONE WAY OR THE OTHER?
WE'RE TELLING YOU NOT TO INTERFERE WITH LAIOS'S PARTY.
WHAT?
EITHER THE DUNGEON GETS A NEW LORD...
...OR THE ELVES OCCUPY IT.
THEY'RE THE ONLY REASON-ABLE HUMANS AROUND.
IF LAIOS'S PARTY DIES, WE GAIN NOTHING FROM THAT.
WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE OUR VEGETABLE SUPPLY.
VEGETA-BLES...?


IN THAT CASE, WE'LL SUPPORT LAIOS!
HUH?
WHA?
U-UM...!
GRR...
HOO!
HOO!


A BASILISK ATTACKED US. I ALMOST DIED.
THEY WERE PASSING BY JUST THEN, AND THEY SAVED US.
WE KNOW LAIOS AND HIS PARTY AS WELL!
...AND TAUGHT US HOW IMPORTANT OUR DIET IS.
THIS TOOK A STRANGE TURN.
...RUBBED THE BASILISK MEAT WITH THEM...
...GENTLY ROASTED IT.....
YOU'RE SURE YOU WEREN'T TRICKED?
THEY DIDN'T ASK FOR ANYTHING. THEY JUST TOOK SOME MEDICINAL HERBS...
...THEY'RE NOT THE SORT OF PEOPLE WHO WOULD HARM THE HUMAN RACES!
THEY DO KNOW A LOT ABOUT MONSTERS.
EVEN SO...


WE'RE IN THEIR DEBT AS WELL.
GRAND-PA.
...
EVEN THOUGH WE WEREN'T VERY FRIENDLY TO THEM...
...I CAN'T INFLICT LETHAL DAMAGE FROM HERE.
THEY SAVED ME WHEN I WAS ATTACKED BY TENTA-CLES.
MAYBE THEY JUST WANTED STEW.
...AND MADE THEM INTO STEW.
...CUT THEM UP... BOILED THEM...
...THEY BRAVED DANGER ...
... DEFEATED THE TENTACLES AND THE UNDINE...
NAMARI. SHURO.
...
WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF LAIOS?
...BUT I AGREE WITH THE OTHERS.
WE WERE ONLY WITH THEM FOR A DAY...


.....WELL, HE'S A GOOD GUY!
THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT.
AND HE RESPECTS FOOD.
NOBODY CARES ABOUT THAT!
OH!
...DOING ANYTHING TO THE ELVES.
I JUST CAN'T SEE THEM...
IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF CHARACTER, IT'S...
ALL ELSE ASIDE ...
I HEARD LAIOS KILLED A RED DRAGON AND A BASILISK.
YEAH, BUT IF IT'S NOT A MONSTER, HE'S GOT NOTHIN'.
HUMANS DON'T INTEREST HIM, SO HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY TACTICS FOR TAKING THEM OUT.
HUH?
THEY'RE NOT THAT TOUGH.
ACTUALLY, YEAH.


THERE'S JUST NO WAY LAIOS COULD BEAT THAT.
I MEAN, THE OTHER SIDE'S BOSS IS STILL STUCK IN THE WALL.
PLUS, THESE COMPANIONS OF YOURS—
...THEIR LEADER'S THE GUY WHO OWNED THAT BRAWL ON THE FIRST FLOOR THE OTHER DAY, RIGHT?


IN OTHER WORDS ...
...IT'S HARD TO ACCEPT WHAT YOU SAY ABOUT THE DUNGEON.
...BUT SINCE EVEN THAT MAY NOT BE TRUE...
YOU SAY LAIOS'S PARTY ATTACKED YOUR COMPANIONS...


BASH! (SNATCH)
BYLIN (WHIZZZ)
INU-TADE!
YEP-YEP!


WE'RE NOT GONNA DO WHAT YOU TELL US!


THE SHORT-LIVED RACES ARE ALWAYS SO—!!
TCH!
FINE. BRING IT.
I'LL TAKE YOU ON.
HUH!?



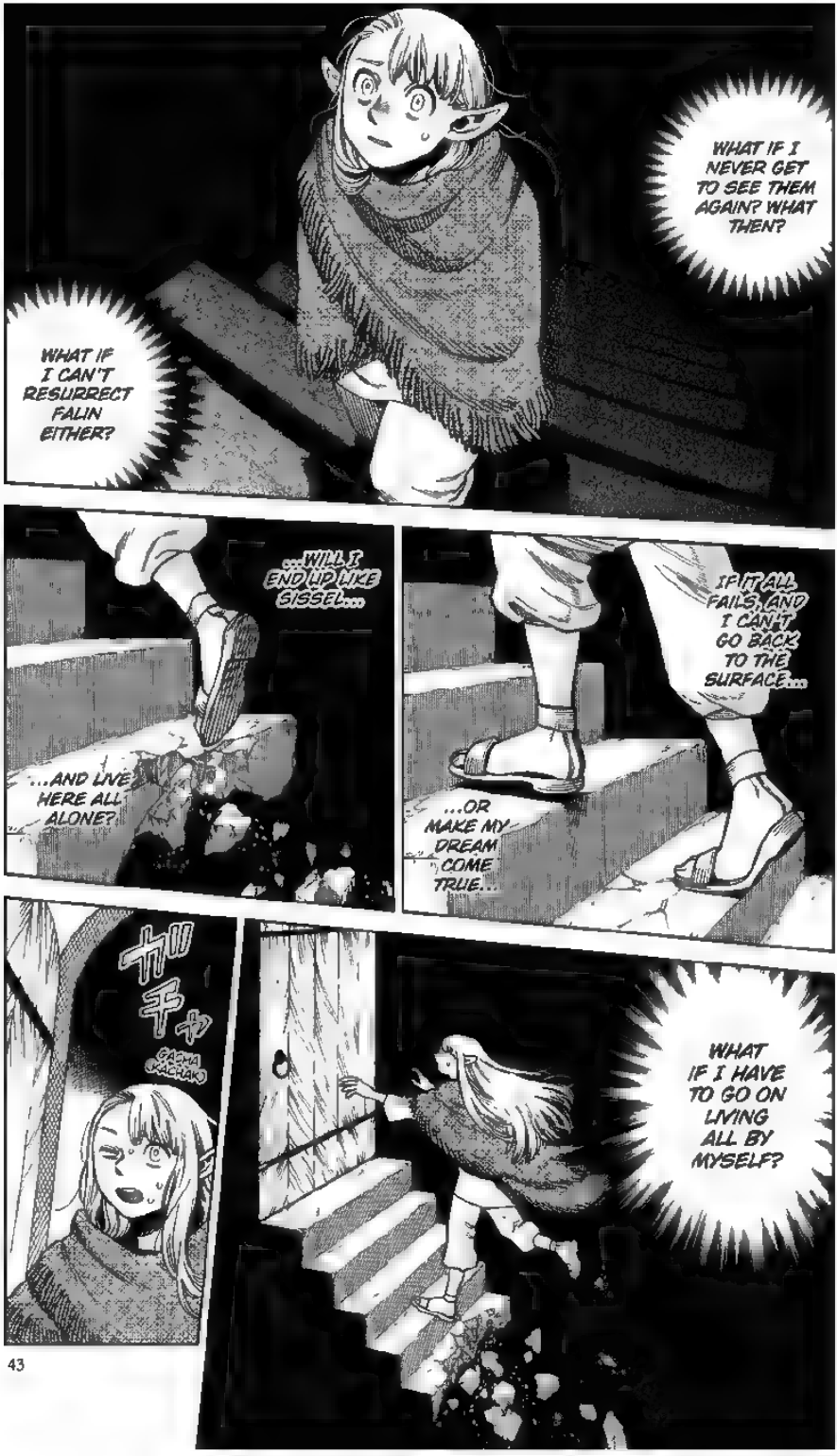

CHAPTER 73: THE END






FALIN...
CHAPTER 79
STAAARE
LAIOS AND THE OTHERS WILL BE HERE SOON!
WE'LL GET YOU BACK TO NORMAL!
IT'S COLD, ISN'T IT? I'M SORRY.
WHAT KIND OF MONSTERS ARE THOSE? I BET LAIOS WOULD KNOW, BUT...
OH! SORRY, MY BODY HEAT MELTED THE ICE.
せっせっ
PAT PAT


THEY'RE CALLED JACK FROSTS.
YOU WANTED TO KEEP FALIN FROM ROTTING, SO I CALLED THEM.
WOULD YOU HAVE PREFERRED ANOTHER METHOD?
FUWA (DRAPE)
ふわ
YOU'RE GETTING COLD.
WE SHOULD GO BACK UP.
N-NO. THIS IS FINE.
WHAT IF...
WHAT'S WRONG?
ARE YOU LONELY?
ARE LAIOS AND THE OTHERS ...?
THEY HAVEN'T BEEN FOUND YET.


WHAT IF I NEVER GET TO SEE THEM AGAIN? WHAT THEN?
WHAT IF I CAN'T RESURRECT FALIN EITHER?
...WILL I END UP LIKE SISSEL...
...AND LIVE HERE ALL ALONE?
IF IT ALL FAILS, AND I CAN'T GO BACK TO THE SURFACE...
...OR MAKE MY DREAM COME TRUE...
カチャ
GACHA
GACHAK
WHAT IF I HAVE TO GO ON LIVING ALL BY MYSELF?


BIKU (FLINCH)
ビクッ
PA—
PAPA ...!?
HAAH...
BECAUSE YOU SEEMED LONELY ON YOUR OWN.
IF YOU'D LIKE, I CAN ANIMATE IT.
DOES IT LOOK LIKE HIM?
I MADE IT AS AN EXPERIMENT.
HE'S A DOLL!?
WH-WHY WOULD YOU....


I'VE TOLD THE WALKING MUSHROOMS TO REPORT ANYTHING THEY FIND IMMEDIATELY ...
...BUT THERE'S NOTHING YET.
THEY MAY NOT BE UP TO THE TASK.
BASHIN (SMACK)
I DON'T NEED THAT. JUST LOOK FOR MY COMPANIONS.
HAVEN'T YOU FOUND THEM YET?
THE CANARIES...
GYU (GRIP)
...THE DUNGEON'S SKY IS SWARMING WITH CANARY FAMILIARS.
THEY'RE LOOKING FOR YOUR PARTY.
YOU'VE SHUT OFF THE "EYES," SO YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO TELL, BUT...
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
ALL I CAN DO IS GRANT YOUR WISHES.
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?
HUH...?
EVEN IF THE MUSHROOMS FIND YOUR FRIENDS...
...THEY MAY BE KILLED JUST MAKING THEIR WAY HERE.

# 79. Parasites




BASHAAAA (KERSPLAAAGH)
GOPO (GLUB)
WE'RE LUCKY THE LAKE WAS—
GOOD GRIEF.
ZABAA (SPLOOSH)
GASH!
HUH?
HUH?
GASH! (GRAB)


TH-THIS IS BAD!
I CAN'T MOVE!!
WE'RE GOING TO DROWN!!
HEY!
BASHA (SPLASH)
WAAH!!
BASHA
あっ!!
FRANKLY, THE MEMORY'S HAZY, BUT...
HMMM...
SO IF YOU APPLY IT LIKE THIS, IT TURNS INTO WATER WALK
MARCILLE DID TEACH ME THAT!!
HAH!
CAN'T YOU USE WATER-WALK!?
WATER-WALK!!
!!
VISUALIZE A MEMBRANE OF MANA AROUND OUR BODIES...

ぶちゅ
ぼふん
ぼふっ


ガン (WHAM)
ん
ぼ
ぼっ
BON (BOMP)
ぼんっ
TSUJU (...DE)
LET'S GO FIND MARCILLE.
HOLD IT!
...OKAY.
IT WOUND UP JUST LIKE THE TIME WE BEAT THE KRAKEN.
WE'RE RIGHT BACK WHERE WE STARTED.
WE LEFT THE POT AND ALL OUR WEAPONS AT THE HOUSE...
BESIDES, WE HAVE NOTHING.
ARE WE SCOURING THE WHOLE DUNGEON? IT'S HUGE.
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
THINK FIRST.


...SHOULD WE GO BACK TO SISSEL'S HOUSE AND GET OUR STUFF?
DON'T BE AN IDIOT!
IS THIS SITUATION WORSE THAN I THOUGHT?
HMM...
JUST GO ALREADY!
KABRU RIGHT THEN
BOKO
BOKO
BOKO
BOKO
BOKO
BUT WE PROMISED WE'D GO OUT TO EAT...
HE'S DYING A SLOW, AWFUL DEATH IN OUR PLACE AS WE SPEAK!
YOU'D WASTE KABRU'S SACRIFICE!?
SOMETHING JUST WENT—
HM...
WHAT IS IT?
GA (WHIP)


SUTTAKA (SCUTTLE)
WHAT ODD COLOR-ING...
WALKING MUSH-ROOMS !?
AND THEY'VE GOT OUR STUFF!!
NOT TO MENTION WE HAVE TO GET OUR STUFF BACK!!
DA (DASH)
...LET'S GO AFTER THEM!
I THINK THEY'VE GOT SOME-THING TO DO WITH MARCILLE!
LOUSY TASTE
THEY SORT OF MATCH THE BEAR-HEADED SPIDERS.


LET'S CLIMB ONTO THE WALKWAY!
THEY'RE FAST!
RUNNING ON WATER IS HARD!
CATCH THAT MUSH-ROOM!!
LAIOS, GO!
RAAAAH!


GORO GOLL
GORO GOLL
GORO GOLL
ガバ
HFF!
HFF!
GOOD TACKLE !!
THIS MUSHROOM ...
I WONDER WHAT IT TASTES LIKE, THOUGH.
WANT TO USE IT IN A SALAD?
MARCILLE, MUSH-ROOMS DON'T HAVE FLOWERS!!
THE FLOWER'S LEECHING ITS NUTRI-ENTS. IT'S DRYING UP
I-IT HAS A FLOW-ER!?
MAR-CIIILLE!


"SOME-WHERE" ...?
...MAYBE SHE WAS HAVING THEM BRING OUR THINGS SOMEWHERE.
IF MARCILLE MADE THESE WALKING MUSHROOMS ...
OH! WAIT!
SHHH SILENT
BUT THAT ONE'S NOT MOVING ANYMORE.
LET'S WATCH IT FOR A WHILE.
YOU MEAN TO WHERE MARCILLE IS!
...LOOK.
COME GET YOUR STUFF.
HEY, IZU-TSUMI.
WE'RE NOT DOING IT FOR YOU.


ACK!


DON'T TELL ME THEY'RE THE CANARIES' ...
K-JIN (SNIFF)
I SMELL MAGIC.
THEY'RE LIKE MARCILLE'S FAMILIARS.


WHAT ARE THOSE!? MONSTERS!?
THEY DON'T SMELL LIKE MONSTERS...




IT'S NOT SAFE OUT HERE.
LET'S HIDE INSIDE.


SILENCIO
YES'M.
DO NOT LET THEM GET AWAY.
LAIOS'S PARTY HAS NOTICED US.
IF THEY LOSE US SOMEWHERE NARROW, WE MAY HAVE TROUBLE.
ZUZO (SNIFF)
WHEW.
HFF! HFF!
THEY'RE NOT FOLLOWING US IN, HUH?


GRRR
GRRR
GRRR


SA-
(WHIP)
PORO
(DROP)
GOKURI
(GULP)
WAUGH!
PAKU
PAKU
PAKU
(SNAP)
GASA
(FLAP)
BOCHAN
(SPLASH)
OH...
OH NO.


LOOK AT IT THIS WAY: WE DIDN'T GET CAUGHT. WE SLIPPED THROUGH THEIR GUARD.
NOT GOOD, NOT GOOD, NOT GOOD! WHAT DO WE DO!?
IT'S A HUGE MONSTER, LIKE A SQUID-OCTOPUS HYBRID.
IT TASTES AWFUL.
EVEN THOUGH IT'S SQUID MIXED WITH OCTOPUS ...!?
WHAT'S A KRAKEN?
REMEMBER WHEN WE BEAT THE KRAKEN?
THE PARASITE WAS WEAKER THAN THE KRAKEN ...
...BUT IT WASN'T A CAPTIVE.
IT WAS USING THE KRAKEN.
YOU ATE A RAW PARASITE AND TRASHED YOUR STOMACH ...
YES. THAT.
ARE YOU AN IDIOT?
WHAT DID WE FIND AFTER WE KILLED IT?
WHAT...?


I'VE GOT AN IDEA.
I WANT ALL OF YOU TO DO WHAT I TELL YOU.
MISO (WHISPER)
YES, MA'AM...
.....?
GOOD. BRING THEM HERE.
KEEP YOUR GUARD UP.
WE DID IT, VICE-CAPTAIN!
WE CAPTURED LAIOS'S GROUP!
...
WHAT'S WRONG?


GRAAAH!!!
THEY SHOULD BE GETTING INTENSE CRAMPS AND NAUSEA.
THIS IS OUR CHANCE! TAKE YOUR PLACES!
HOW'S IT FEEL TO HAVE A HEAD PUNCTURE YOUR STOMACH WALL!? HURTS, HUH!?
LET'S GO!
IZU-TSUMI, SEARCH FOR A WAY OUT DOWN BELOW!
CHIL-CHUCK, KEEP A LOOKOUT FROM IT'S THROAT!
SENSHI, MAKE NOISE IN IT'S HEAD AND STEER IT TOWARD THE WATER!


PARASITE ATTACK!
YAAAGH!
NNGH ...!
NOT NOW!! TOUGH IT OUT!!
UM...
CAN WE BREAK THE FAMILIARS APART FOR A MINUTE?


BASAA (FLAP)
ONE OF THE CANARIES TOOK MENTAL DAMAGE...
...SO I THOUGHT MAYBE...
MARCILLE'S FAMILIARS GOT KILLED, BUT SHE WAS FINE.
YOU'RE SURE THEY FEEL PAIN?
IT'S NO GOOD! THEY'RE NOT STOPPING!
(ZUBO (OOF))
ズボ
WHAT ELSE...
WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO?
IS IT THE SIZE DIFFERENCE?
THAT DOESN'T EVEN TICKLE.
CHILCHUCK, HOW DOES IT LOOK OUT THERE!?
ユエ...
THAT'S WEIRD. IT SHOULD HURT QUITE A LOT...


MAYBE IT'S A SEA SERPENT?
WHAT COLOR IS IT?
IT'S UNDER-WATER SO I CAN'T SEE THAT WELL, BUT—
THERE'S A BIG MONSTER IN THE WATER.
A BIG ONE? LIKE A KRAKEN?
NO, LONGER AND THINNER. LIKE A SNAKE.
A FLORAL PRINT SNAKE!!
MARCILLE MUST HAVE SUMMONED IT!!
IF I HAD TO SAY... FLORAL PRINT?
BATA
HELP US!
MAR-CILLE! OVER HERE!
BA CLANG!
MAYBE SHE FOUND OUT THROUGH THE MUSH-ROOMS AND CAME LOOKING FOR US.
WE HAVE TO TELL HER WE'RE HERE!!


うご
UGO
うごご
UGO (SQUIRM)
ALL OF YOU, LOOK DOWN!
I CAN'T SEE.
A BIG MONSTER IS TAILING US IN THE WATER!
MY EYES FEEL GROSS !!
...UU!?
WHAT NOW!?
ちゃぽ
CHAPO (SPLISH)
IF WE STAY IN THE AIR, WE'LL BE FINE.
BABA (FLAP)
はばた
THAT'S A SEA SERPENT, ISN'T IT?


DWEH !?
EVADE—
BUWA (WOOSH)
I CAN'T SEE A THING.
IT'S NOT A SEA SER-PENT!?
A WINGED SNAKE ...
IT'S A COATL!




GUBIRI (SKWEEZ)
ガビリ
WAAAAH!?
GUBIRI
ガビリ
AAAAAH!!
GOKKUN (GULP)
ゴックン
GUBIRI
ビビビ
DAMMIT. WE LOST THEM...
STAY CALM! CUT YOUR MINDS LOOSE!!


ぼおっ…
BOO (FLARE)
ぽ。
ぽぉ…
UGH.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
IS EVERY-BODY OKAY!?
I'LL GET A LIGHT...



# 80. The Food Chain

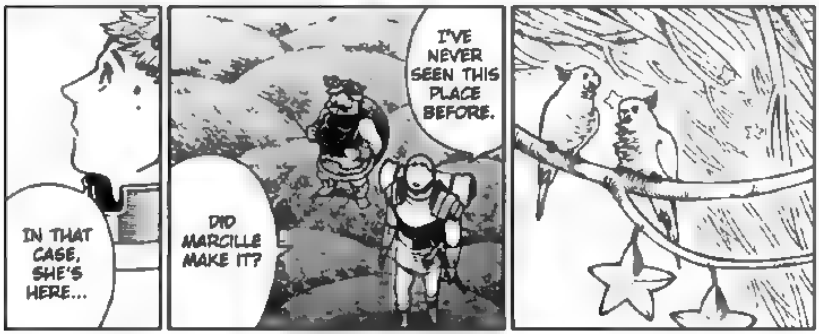

ARE WE INSIDE THAT SNAKE?
IT SWALLOWED THE GIANT BIRD WHOLE.
WHAT, FOR REAL...?
THIS IS...?
LET'S HAVE IT TAKE US TO MARCILLE.
MAYBE IT ONLY LOOKS LIKE A CREATURE...
...AND IT'S ACTUALLY A DEVICE TO TRANSPORT US SAFELY.
IF WE DON'T GET OUT FAST, IT'LL DIGEST US!
A REAL SNAKE WOULDN'T HAVE A CAVITY THIS SIZE INSIDE IT.
MAR-CILLE !!
LET US OUT OF HERE!!
FALSE ALARM, HUH?
WHEW!
MY FEET FEEL KIND OF BURNY...

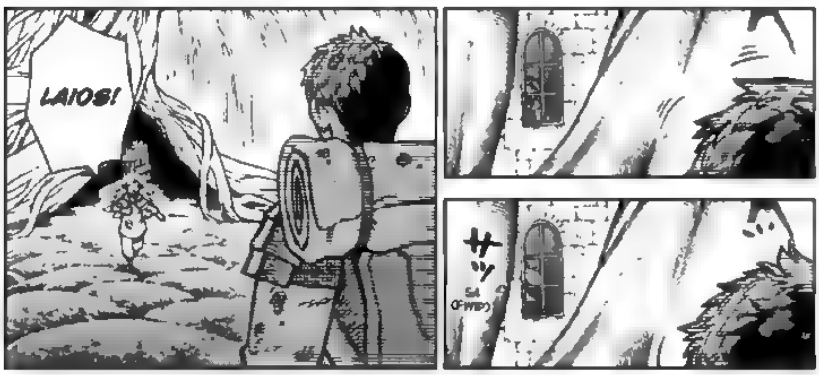

IF THE BIRD WAS A PARATENIC HOST...
...THE SNAKE IS AN INTER-MEDIARY HOST...
...AND MARCILLE IS THE DEFINITIVE HOST...
YOUR ANALO-GIES ARE WEIRD.
WAIT A MINUTE.
CUT THROUGH THIS SO WE CAN ESCAPE!
LET'S TAKE IT SLOW.
...STAYING IN THE STOMACH ISN'T SAFE.
LET'S HEAD FARTHER BACK!
FOR NOW...
SO WE SHOULD JUST LET IT DIGEST US A LITTLE!?
WE'LL DIE TOO.
IF THE INTERMEDIARY HOST DIES, WE WON'T MAKE IT TO THE DEFINITIVE HOST.


I'M NOT PUSHING!
IT'S MOVING ME FORWARD!
BOWEL PERISTALSIS!?
GU!
GLU!
SHOVE
DON'T PUSH LIKE THAT, PLEASE.
LET'S WAIT HERE AND SEE...
IT'S GETTING NARROWER.
IF IT GETS ANY TIGHTER, WE'LL BE STUCK.
WE'RE JUST GOING TO GET POOPED OUT!!
IN OTHER WORDS, SINCE WE DON'T HAVE SUCKERS...
WHY DON'T BOWEL-DWELLING PARASITES GET EXCRETED?
BECAUSE THEY USE SUCKERS OR THEIR MOUTHS TO HOLD ON.


PURI (SPLORT)
DOSA (WHUMP)
LOOK!
PTOO! PTOO!
BLRG!
THAT WAS NASTY.




IN THAT CASE, SHE'S HERE...
DID MARCILLE MAKE IT?
I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS PLACE BEFORE.


LAIOS!
(PANTING)


IZU-TSUMI!
SEN-SHI!
CHIL-CHUCK!
THANK G—
JUST MAKE YOURSELVES AT HOME.
I'LL DRAW YOU A HOT BATH. COME WASH UP.
...YOU KINDA SMELL.
SHE'S ACTING LIKE SHE OWNS THE PLACE.
WHOSE FAULT IS THAT, HUH!?


NOW ISN'T THE TIME!
AH!
HAAAH!
おぼーん
KAPOOON (KATONK)
DO YOU HAVE THAT BOOK!?
Y-YES.
WHAT, WHAT?
MAR-CILLE.
BATA (TROMP)
ばた
MAR-CILLE!
FALIN'S BODY IS SAFE TOO.
I SEE. THAT'S GREAT.
I'M FINE.
YOU'RE NOT HURT?
THE ELVES ATTACKED YOU OVER IT, RIGHT?
I WAS HURT, BUT...
IN THAT CASE, I HAVE A PROPOSAL...


W-WITH THOSE PEOPLE!? WHY!?
THEY ALMOST KILLED US!
I WAS TALKING WITH KABRU.
!?
WOULD YOU TAKE THE BOOK AND GO NEGOTIATE WITH THEM?
I WANT TO ASK FOR HELP WITH FALIN.
AT ANY RATE, FIGHTING WITH THEM WILL ONLY HURT US.
WE'LL NEED TO HAVE A PROPER TALK WITH THEM...
IT SOUNDS LIKE THERE'S A REASON THEY WANT THAT BOOK.
I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO FIND OUT WHAT IT WAS, BUT...
MAR-CILLE?


I DOUBT THEY'D LISTEN.
EVEN IF THEY DID, I CAN'T DO THAT.
KURU KURU
KURU KURU
AND THAT IS...?
IT'S THE REASON...
...I STUDIED ANCIENT MAGIC AND VISITED THE DUNGEON.
WH-WHY NOT?
I TOLD YOU. I'VE GOT A DREAM.
TO GET RID OF EXTREME DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE HUMAN RACES' LIFE SPANS.


IT WAS A PIPE DREAM, BUT...
...WITH THE POWER OF THE DUNGEON, IT CAN BE REAL.
I'VE WANTED TO FIX THE RACIAL DIVIDES CREATED BY THOSE DIFFERENCES SINCE I WAS A CHILD.
ELF 500 YEARS
DWARF 200 YEARS
TALL-MAN 60 YEARS
I MEAN...
...AT THIS POINT, THE DIFFERENCES ARE HUGE.
TO WHAT, FIVE HUNDRED YEARS?
SO YOU'RE EXTENDING THE SHORT-LIVED RACES' LIFE SPANS?
I ASSUME YOU WON'T MAKE THE LONG-LIVED RACES DIE SOONER.
SO, UH...
THAT MEANS I CAN'T GIVE THE BOOK TO THEM NOW.
NO. ABOUT A THOUSAND YEARS.
TERE (BLUSH)


WE'D BE THE SAME AGE AS YAAD'S PEOPLE...?
THAT'S A BIT MUCH.
WHAT'S THE POINT OF LIVING THAT LONG?
HA HA HA!
WA HA HA HA
A THOU-SAND YEARS!!
OH YEAH, RIGHT!
WA HA! HA!
HALF-ELVES' LIFE SPANS ARE CLOSE TO ONE THOUSAND YEARS.
BETWEEN ILLNESS AND ACCIDENTS, NOT MANY ACTUALLY MAKE IT TO OLD AGE, BUT...
HA...
I HAVE TO LIVE THAT LONG!


OUR CURRENT LIFE SPANS ARE WHAT'S REALLY UNNATURAL.
SO IT'S ATAVISTIC?
IN ANTIQUITY, THE LONG-LIVED RACES ALL LIVED TO THAT AGE.
SINCE THE ANCIENT WAR, THEIR LIFE SPANS KEEP GETTING SHORTER, BUT WHEN THEIR BLOOD IS MIXED WITH OTHERS, IT REVERTS.
TH—
THAT LONG? JUST HALF-ELVES? WHY?
BUT WHETHER IT'S ONE OR FIVE CENTURIES FROM NOW...
...I WANT TO BE ABLE TO SEE THE REST OF YOU AND TALK AND HAVE DINNER!
AT THIS RATE, IN FIVE HUNDRED YEARS, THE REST OF YOU WILL BE GONE.
EVEN AFTER ALL THIS, FALIN WILL ONLY HAVE A FEW MORE DECADES...
THIS JOURNEY GOT ME THINKING.
IT WILL WORK.
...BUT IT'S NOT GONNA—
I MEAN, I GET IT...

OKIRU
IZ
すぴー
(LOUD
NOISE)
パクン
ぴよっ
(SURPRISED
SOUND)


W-WINGED LION...?
DID IT GET BIGGER?
PROVIDED SHE WANTS IT TO, THAT IS.
A WORLD WITH NO RACIAL DIVIDE?
A WORLD WITHOUT HUNGER?
HOLD ONTO YOUR DESIRES.
AS LONG AS YOU HAVE THOSE, I'LL GIVE YOU POWER.
HOW-EVER—
...SO YOU CAN CREATE A BETTER WORLD.
STAY HUNGRY ...
HE STOPPED WANTING AND GROWING.
SISSEL'S DUNGEON STALLED BECAUSE HE WAS SATISFIED.


SO THAT'S WHY SISSEL PULLED THE WHOLE GOLDEN COUNTRY IN HERE...
OUTSIDE IT, MY INFLUENCE VANISHES.
I CAN ONLY AFFECT THE DUNGEON'S INTERIOR.
SO INSTEAD ...
...I'LL HAVE THE DUNGEON ENVELOP THE WORLD!
BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE, YOU KNOW?
IF I'M GOING TO EXTEND THE LIFE SPANS OF ALL MANKIND, THEY HAVE TO BE IN THE DUNGEON.
YES, EXACTLY!
YOU'LL EXPAND IT...?
...YES.
YOU'VE SEEN HER MONSTERS, RIGHT?
MARCILLE IS BRILLIANT...
...BUT SHE HAS ALMOST NO INTEREST IN THE DUNGEON.
THAT'S WHERE WE NEED YOUR HELP, LAIOS.


THE CANARIES ARE THE MOST LIKELY CANDIDATES AT PRESENT.
THEY'VE KILLED DUNGEON LORDS AROUND THE WORLD AND TAKEN ME AWAY.
AT THIS RATE, SHE WON'T ACHIEVE HER DREAM BEFORE THE DUNGEON IS CONQUERED.
MARCILLE WILL BE KILLED, AND I'LL FALL INTO ANOTHER'S HANDS.
WE'RE MUCH LIKE STRANDS OF HAIR. AT OUR ROOTS...
...WE'RE PART OF THE SAME THING.
WE'RE DIFFERENT INDIVIDUALS, BUT WE SHARE OUR MEMORIES.
ARE YOU THE POWER IN OTHER DUNGEONS TOO?
HM? "AROUND THE WORLD"?
WELL.
THE CANARIES ARE A FORMIDABLE FOE, BUT...
THEY ALWAYS TAKE IT AND HIDE IT.
THEY'RE AFRAID.
THEY DON'T WANT OTHER RACES TO HAVE POWER.
LAIOS.
I WOULDN'T TRY TALKING TO THE ELVES.


...SENSHI'S INQUISITIVE MIND...
...CHILCHUCK'S EXPERIENCE...
...AND IZUTSUMI'S... WILDNESS...
...WITH MARCILLE'S IDEALS...
...YOUR CURIOSITY...
COME TO THE SURFACE WITH ME.
HM?
BELIEVE IN YOUR OWN STRENGTH.
...WE'LL HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THEM.


IF WE'RE TOGETH-ER...
...WE'LL BE ABLE TO GET THROUGH ANYTHING.
ぎゅ
GYU (SQUEEZE)
YOU WILL HELP, WON'T YOU...?


I DON'T THINK WE CAN.
I...
MAR-CILLE.
OUR JOURNEY HAS MADE ME RETHINK A LOT OF THINGS AS WELL.

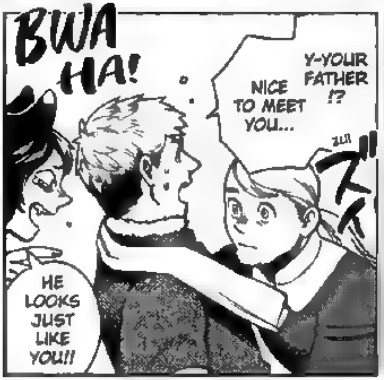

IN ORDER TO SAVE MY SISTER, WE'VE KILLED ALL SORTS OF CREATURES...
...WHETHER THEY ATTACKED US OR NOT.
FOR SOMETHING TO LIVE, SOMETHING ELSE HAS TO DIE.
THAT'S HOW THE WORLD WORKS.
HE WANTED THE GOLDEN COUNTRY TO LAST FOREVER ...
...BUT YAAD AND HIS PEOPLE DIDN'T.
THAT TEAR IS WHAT BROKE SISSEL.
IF HE DOES, THOUGH, IT WILL CAUSE SOMETHING TO TEAR.
THE WINGED LION MAY BE ABLE TO CHANGE THAT RULE.
NO MENU CAN SATISFY EVERYONE.
...BUT TO SOMEBODY ELSE, IT'S HARDLY EDIBLE.
I MAY THINK IT'S DELICIOUS ...
?
...SOME PEOPLE... HATE THE FOOD I LOVE.


YOUR DREAM...
...MEANS FORCING THE WHOLE WORLD TO EAT A MENU YOU DESIGNED!
I MEAN...
THEY'LL NEVER HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT STARVING...
...BUT THAT...
...WAS INCRED-IBLY ROUGH!


I DON'T WANT YOU LOOKING LIKE SISSEL, THOUGH.
I CAN'T CONDONE USING THE DUNGEON'S POWER.
IT'S REAS-SURING WHEN YOU SMILE...
...SO I'D LIKE TO DO ALL I CAN TO HELP YOU.
LET'S TAKE FALIN AND GO BACK TO THE SURFACE, MARCILLE!


I'M NOT LIKE SISSEL, AM I?
I'M NOT TRYING TO MAKE EVERYONE IMMORTAL.
I JUST WANT TO EXPAND THEIR OPTIONS...
WHY...
WHY?
MAR-CILLE.
I—
I KNOW.
I WON'T FORCE YOU.
BUT I WON'T LET YOU GO TO THE CANARIES.
THEY WON'T HELP US RESURRECT FALIN.
YOU'D BE GOING TO YOUR DEATHS.
LET ME THINK A BIT.
I'LL DO SOMETHING ABOUT FALIN AND THE DUNGEON... ON MY OWN.

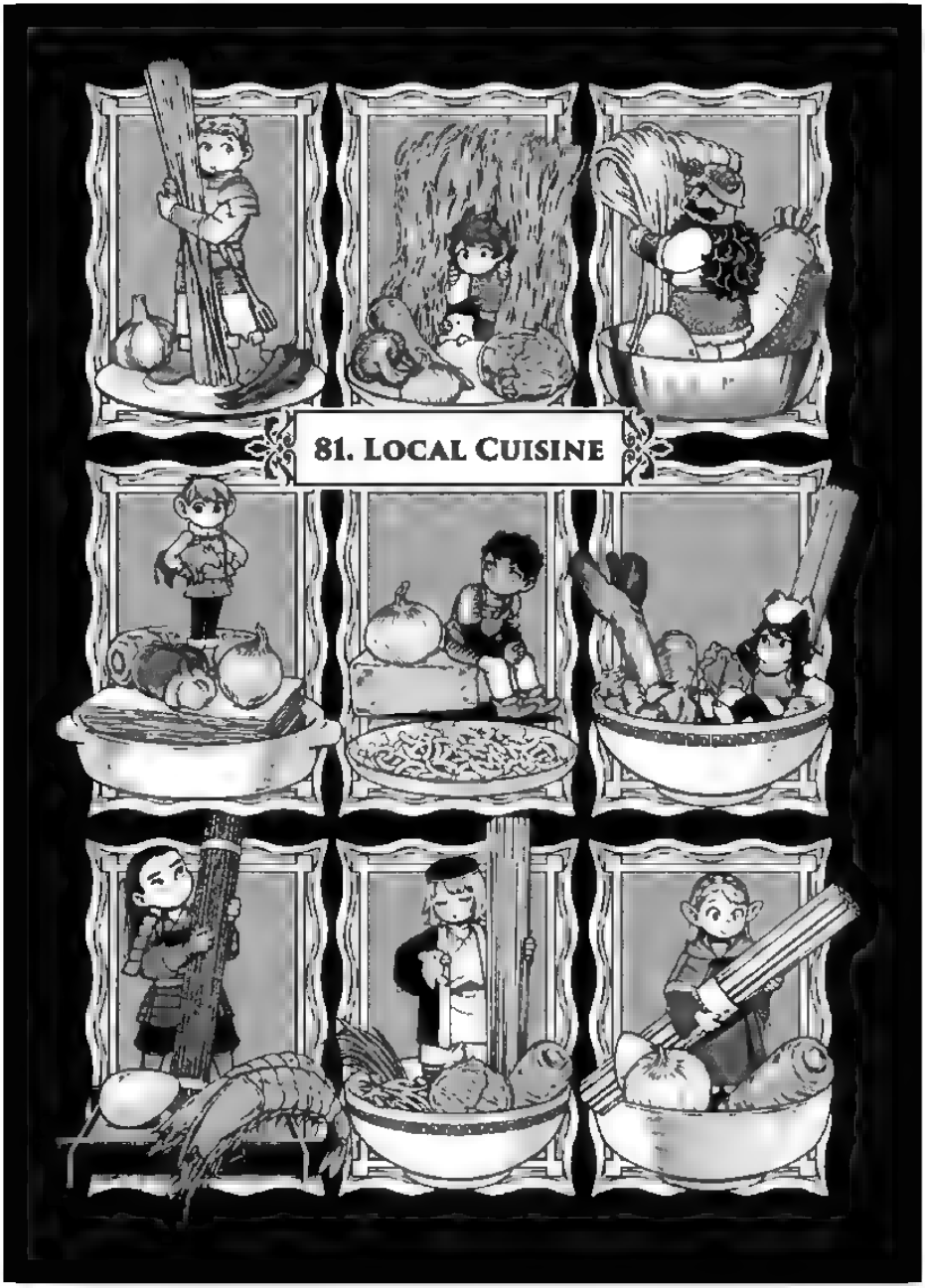

!! BAM CWHAAO
TAKE CUSTODY OF LAIOS AND THE OTHERS!


BWA HA!
Y-YOUR FATHER !?
NICE TO MEET YOU...
ZUI
HE LOOKS JUST LIKE YOU!!


MY FATHER.
ZUI
WHO IS THIS!?
ZUI
HUH?
ZUI
HUH!?
ZUI (GHOST)


WAAAH!
GASHI (GRAB)
GASHI
UU!
GASHI
BUT DIDN'T YOU SAY HE WAS DEAD?

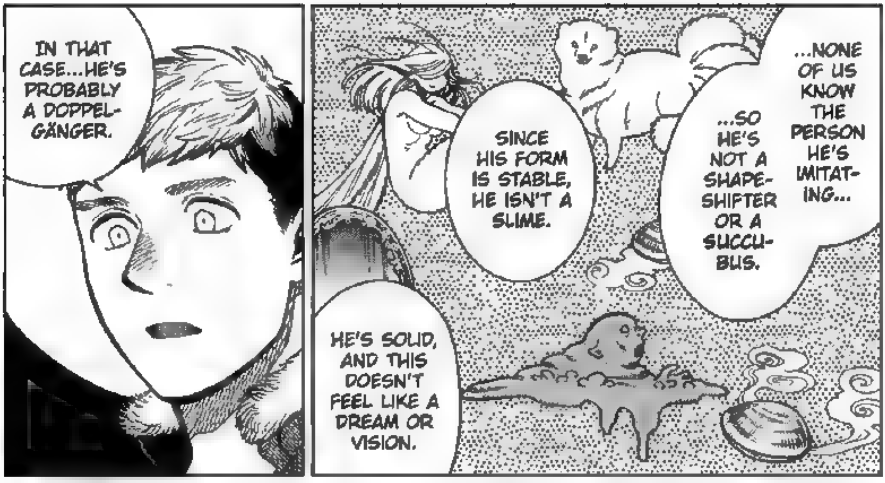

DON'T WORRY!
I'LL PROTECT ALL OF YOU, FALIN...
...AND THE DUNGEON!
AAAH!
UNTIL IT'S SAFE, GO COOK SOME-THING!
...WAIT. IS IT POSSI-BLE...
...THAT THE DUNGEON'S POWER IS EVIL!?
YOU DON'T SAY!
GU! (CREEEAK)
BATAN (SLAM)

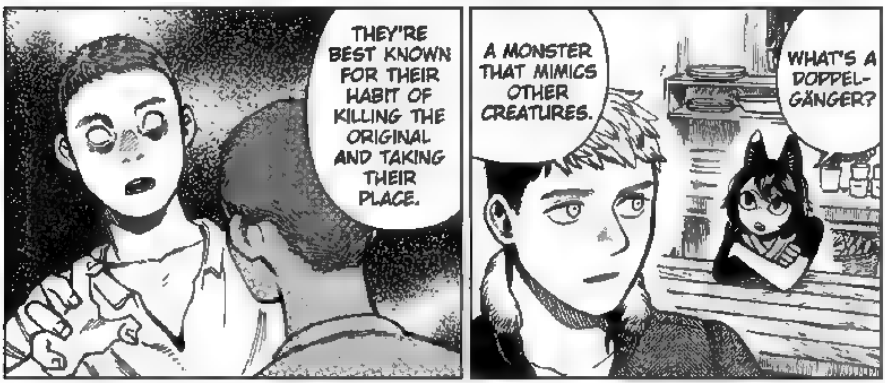

81. Local Cuisine

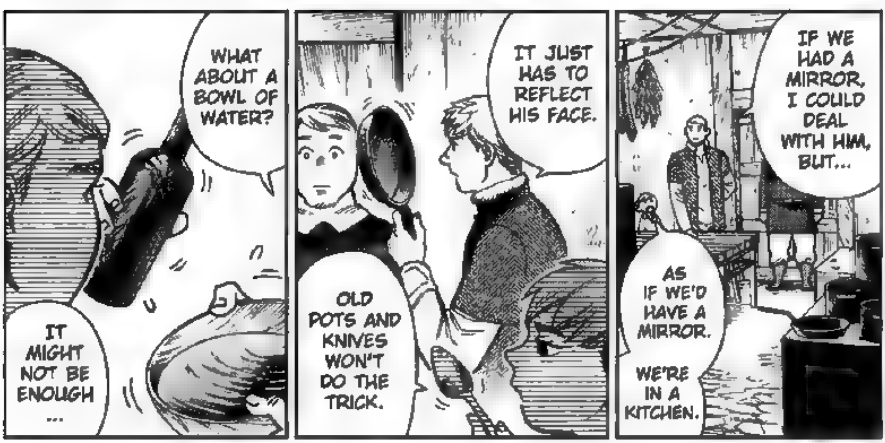

JUST ONE DAMN THING AFTER ANOTHER.
DAMMIT, DAMMIT, DAMMIT.
YOU MAY NEVER SEE IT AGAIN.
DON'T SAY THAT!
LET ME GO BACK TO THE SURFACE ALREADY!
ONE!
TWO...
LET'S BREAK THIS DOWN.
SENSHI, GIVE ME A HAND!
DON (THUMP)
DON
GACHA (RATTLE)
GACHA
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
IT'S NOT TOO LATE YET.
THREE—
GACHA KACHAK


POI (CLOSE)
GASHI (GRAB)
GASHIRI
BATAN (SLAM)
WHAT THE HECK IS THAT GUY!?
UH...
MARCILLE'S LATE FATHER, APPARENTLY...


I'M DONATO.
SUC-CUBUS, SHAPE-SHIFTER, OOZE, MIRROR —
SUN POKE
MAYBE IT'S A MIMIC-TYPE MONSTER.
SA SSK SA SA
PETA
PETA (PAT)
IS IT AN ACTUAL HUMAN ...!?
IT TALKS !?
I RECORD AND PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF THIS LAND.
I'M DONATO.
LAIOS, CAN YOU TELL WHAT TYPE HE IS?
IT'S JUST A GUESS, BUT...
...GUESS NOT, HUH.
I RECORD AND PRE-SERVE THE HISTORY OF THIS LAND.
THAT'S DEFI-NITELY A MON-STER.


IN THAT CASE...HE'S PROBABLY A DOPPEL-GÄNGER.
HE'S SOLID, AND THIS DOESN'T FEEL LIKE A DREAM OR VISION.
SINCE HIS FORM IS STABLE, HE ISN'T A SLIME.
...SO HE'S NOT A SHAPE-SHIFTER OR A SUCCU-BUS.
...NONE OF US KNOW THE PERSON HE'S IMITAT-ING...


THEY'RE BEST KNOWN FOR THEIR HABIT OF KILLING THE ORIGINAL AND TAKING THEIR PLACE.
A MONSTER THAT MIMICS OTHER CREATURES.
WHAT'S A DOPPEL-GÄNGER?


WHAT ABOUT A BOWL OF WATER?
IT MIGHT NOT BE ENOUGH ...
IT JUST HAS TO REFLECT HIS FACE.
OLD POTS AND KNIVES WON'T DO THE TRICK.
IF WE HAD A MIRROR, I COULD DEAL WITH HIM, BUT...
AS IF WE'D HAVE A MIRROR.
WE'RE IN A KITCHEN.


HM?
GACHA GRATT..ED
GACHA
TCH!
IT'S STURDY ...
CAN'T WE GET OUT THIS WINDOW?
I BET I COULD CLIMB DOWN THE TRUNK...
...BUT THOSE KLUTZES WOULD NEVER MANAGE IT.
AND ACTU-ALLY...
HEY.
COME LOOK OUT-SIDE.
WHAT? WHAT'S UP?
ゴオオオオオ


WHOA!
KAW!
KAW!
SKWEE!
SKWEE!
.....
OKAY, THIS IS OFFICIALLY BAD.
MARCILLE'S GEARING UP TO FIGHT THE CANARIES...
WE HAVE TO STOP HER!
IT'S CRAWLING WITH MONSTERS!


WAAAAAAH!
RRAAAAAAH!
DRAW HER...?
...WHY DON'T WE DRAW MARCILLE TO US?
INSTEAD OF TRYING TO GET OUT...
HMM.
WE'RE NO MATCH.
HFF!
HFF!
HFF!
H-HE'S TOUGH!
WHAT DO YOU PEOPLE THINK MARCILLE IS, HUH?
YOU'RE SO SMART!
MAKES SENSE.
LET'S USE THE AROMA TO ATTRACT HER!
LUCKILY THIS IS A KITCHEN, AND IT'S WELL-STOCKED WITH INGREDIENTS!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE LAST ATE.
SHE SHOULD BE GETTING HUNGRY.


WHAT ARE HER FAVORITES?
A MEAL MARCILLE WOULD COME RUNNING FOR...
I DON'T EXPECT ORDINARY FOOD TO ATTRACT HER, OF COURSE.
WE'LL NEED A PARTIC-ULARLY APPEALING DISH.
LIKE CATNIP FOR CATS.
YOU'RE SURE THAT'S WHAT SHE LIKES?
KELPIE LIVER!
FISH-MAN EGG PORRIDGE.
BOILED MAN-DRAKE!
.....
WHAT COULD WE MAKE THAT WOULD DRAW MARCILLE TO US...
THESE ARE ALL NORMAL FOODS.
...HMM.
IT'S NEW, BUT IT FEELS LIVED-IN.
IT MUST BE BASED ON SOME-THING.
WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?
I MEAN THIS SPACE THAT MARCILLE MADE.
...WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
COME TO THINK OF IT...


IF WE MAKE A DISH THAT'S A PERFECT FIT...
?
...DON'T YOU THINK SHE'LL GET CURIOUS AND COME LOOK!?
ON THE INSIDE, YEAH, IT FEELS LIKE THAT.
TO HER, IT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT PLACE THERE IS.
I THINK THIS MAY BE THE HOUSE WHERE SHE GREW UP.
"HOME-TOWN CUISINE," HUH?
SO WHERE'S MARCILLE FROM?
DON (BAM)
WE'LL CALL IT "OPERATION: HOMETOWN CUISINE" !!
WE A..MOST NEVER SPENT TIME TOGETHER OUTS DE WORK...
BEFORE, ANYWAY.
YOU GUYS SERIOUSLY DON'T KNOW EACH OTHER.
SEE YAAA.
DIDN'T SHE SAY IT WASN'T THE WEST?
.....
ACTU-ALLY, GOOD QUES-TION.


BRILL CRUNCH
ぜクッ
MARCILLE GREW UP LONELY BECAUSE OF ME.
WAUGH!?
I DON'T THINK SHE'S REALLY ACTING LIKE HERSELF...
HMM.
GUESS YOU SHOULD HAVE HUNG OUT MORE AND PICKED UP ON HER INNER DARKNESS.
SAME AGE
AS A CHILD, HER GROWTH WAS ERRATIC...
SOME ARE STILL PHYSICALLY CHILDREN AFTER A HUNDRED YEARS.
OTHERS GROW LIKE THE SHORT-LIVED RACES, THEN STOP SUDDENLY IN MIDDLE AGE.
CHILDREN WITH BLOOD FROM SHORT-LIVED AND LONG-LIVED PARENTS DEVELOP AT DIFFERENT RATES.
IT JUST STARTS TALKING.
I REMEMBER GOING TO BURY THEM TOGETHER, NEAR A CARROT FIELD...
HM?
IT TOOK TWENTY YEARS FOR ALL HER ADULT TEETH TO GROW IN.


WASN'T IT CREEPY WHEN THE TEETH GOT PLOWED UP?
HMM.
THOUGH WE USED ONION FIELDS.
MAYBE IT'S A NORTHERN CONTINENT CUSTOM?
BURY TEETH IN A FIELD?
NOT THROW THEM DOWN A RABBIT HOLE?
NO, YOU HIDE THEM UNDER YOUR SHOES.
WE THREW OURS IN THE RIVER.
THAT MEANS...
MARCILLE...
WHAT FOODS DID MARCILLE LIKE AS A KID?
JUST ASK HIM.
TOO SLOW.
KEH!
...IF WE KEEP LISTENING, HIS STORIES SHOULD GIVE US CLUES ABOUT HER HOMETOWN!!
...BUT IT WAS YEARS BEFORE SHE COULD RUN AROUND.
SHE TALKS A LOT...
SHE LEARNED TO SPEAK RIGHT AWAY...
...WAS BORN WHEN I WAS GETTING ON IN YEARS.
HE'S SO LIVELY.
HE DOESN'T LISTEN.


FOR A LONG TIME, SHE GREW UP SURROUNDED BY SHORT-LIVED ADULTS, CHICKENS AND BOOKS.
THAT MEANT WE COULDN'T SEND HER TO SCHOOL FOR QUITE A WHILE.
PERI (PEEL)
YOU ALREADY KNOW WHAT YOU'RE MAKING?
THIS IS JUST FOR THE BROTH.
BROTH IS A FOUNDATION.
YOU CAN USE ALL SORTS OF THINGS...
VEGETABLES, HERBS, MUSHROOMS, MEAT, SEAFOOD.
...BUT THE BROTH IS WHAT SETS THE TONE OF A CERTAIN REGION.
FROM WHAT HE'S SAID...
...VEGETABLES AND CHICKEN WERE STAPLES IN MARCILLE'S HOMETOWN.
YOU CAN USE THOSE IN ANY DISH, SO I'LL JUST PREPARE THEM NOW.
KEEP HIM TALKING.
ALL RIGHT!


WHAT DO YOU THINK SHE MADE?
WHAT WAS IT!?
OOH!
MY DAUGHTER WAS WORRIED, AND SHE COOKED FOR ME WITHOUT TELLING HER MOM.
ONE YEAR, I WAS SICK.
I COULDN'T EAT MUCH.
A BIG POT FULL OF PASTA...
...SPRINKLED WITH A LITTLE SALT.
—NO, WAIT. SENSHII DID YOU HEAR THAT!?
HE SAID PASTA!
IT'S COMING TOGETHER.
I'LL MAKE NOODLES.
THAT'S A PAINFUL... I MEAN, A BEAUTIFUL MEMORY.
I THOUGHT I'D DIE, BUT I ATE IT ALL.


LEAVE IT TO ME!
KEEP TALKING TO HIM.
THAT SAID, PASTA COMES IN MANY FORMS!
SHORT, LONG, FLAT...
I ALSO WANT TO KNOW ABOUT SEASONINGS AND TOPPINGS.
THE QUESTIONS HAVE TO RELATE TO THINGS MARCILLE REMEMBERS.
HE'S MADE FROM MEMORIES.
WHAT WAS YOUR WIFE'S BEST RECIPE?
SHE SEASONED IT WITH HERBS, TIED IT WITH TWINE, THEN SLOW-ROASTED IT.
I THOUGHT I COULD SPEND FOREVER EATING THAT.
THAT SOUNDS TASTY.
OHO!?
I COULDN'T GET ENOUGH OF MY WIFE'S ROAST PORK.
PIKURI (TWITCH)


MY LITTLE SISTER'S IN HERE..
I USED TO BE A BIG EATER...
...BUT BETWEEN SICKNESS AND AGE, THE LIST OF WHAT I COULD EAT GOT SHORTER, AND I GREW THIN.
...SHE GOT TERRIBLY UPSET.
...BUT WHEN I WAS NO LONGER ABLE TO EAT THE ROAST PORK I LOVED...
IT'LL ALL WORK OUT.
MY WIFE WAS A CHEERFUL SOUL...
AFTER I DIED, WHEN MY DAUGHTER WAS IN TEARS, MY WIFE SPOKE TO HER.
MARCILLE'S MEMORIES WITH ME ARE MONOPOLIZED BY ILLNESS AND OLD AGE.
I'M SURE IT MADE A DEEP IMPRESSION ON OUR DAUGHTER.
THAT WAS THE ONLY TIME I EVER SAW HER SO EMOTIONAL.


"YOU RUN FASTER THAN EVERYONE ELSE...
"...SO YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO WATCH LOTS OF PEOPLE GO AWAY."
...SHE SAID.
...LAIOS?
THAT'S YOUR TAKE-AWAY!?
IN THAT CASE, LET'S ADD ROAST PORK TO THE PASTA.
I SEE...
...AND BEGAN TO SPEAK OF HER DREAM AROUND THAT TIME.
SHE DEVELOPED AN INTEREST IN THE RACES' LIFE SPANS...


DON'T GIVE UP...
IF YOU WISH HARD, YOU CAN DO ANYTHING!
DON'T GET DISCOURAGED. BE CONFIDENT!
YOU'VE WORKED HARD FOR SUCH A LONG TIME!
NO, YOU CAN!!
BECAUSE YOU'RE AMAZING, MARCILLE!!
...I'M THE ONE WHO STIRRED HER UP.
I'D FORGOTTEN WHAT HAPPENED IN THAT DREAM, BUT...
YEAH, THAT HAPPENED
THAT TIME MARCILLE WAS ATTACKED BY NIGHTMARES, I WENT INTO HER DREAM TO SAVE HER.
I-I REMEMBERED...
WHAT IS IT, LAIOS?

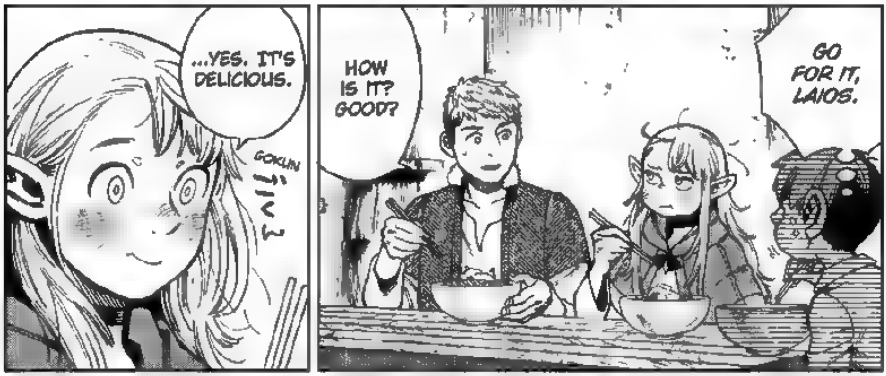

THAT UNWAVERING ATTITUDE OF HERS IS MY FAULT.
WHAT THE HECK?
I MADE HER PICK UP THAT BOOK...
MARCILLE WAS SCARED HER LOVED ONES WOULD DIE BEFORE SHE DID.
I TOLD HER SHE COULD CONQUER THAT FEAR. I ENCOURAGED HER.
THAT'S ...
.....
I'M SAYING THINKING LIKE THAT IS POINTLESS.
IT COULD BE OUR FAULT FOR NOT GETTING TO KNOW HER BETTER...
...OR FALIN'S FAULT FOR ACTUALLY BEING GOOD FRIENDS WITH HER.
IF YOU PUT IT THAT WAY...
...IT'S HER PARENTS' FAULT FOR MAKING A BABY.
DON'T SAY THAT!
THIS IS LOCAL CUISINE FROM MARCILLE'S HOME-TOWN—
BE-HOLD!
IT'S DONE.
Lit. GU (THINK?)
WOW !!
COULD IT BE...!?
GUUUU (GURGLE)
THAT SMELL IS SO LOUD I CAN'T FOCUS!


PER-
FECTED
!!!
VITAMIN C
ENERGY
PROTEIN
VITAMIN B2
A
VITAMIN A
CARBS
IRON
CALCIUM
DON (BABAM)
LOCAL CUISINE FROM MARCILLE'S HOMETOWN
Ingredients
Noodles 400 g
Soup 400 mL
Braised pork belly 2 slices
Cabbage · bean sprouts To taste
Garlic · leeks · soft-boiled egg To taste
OHH
!!
A PASTA DISH...!?
I MEAN, IT'S A PASTA DISH, RIGHT?
NOTHING IN THOSE STORIES SUGGESTED THAT PART OF THE WORLD!
NO WAY IS THAT RIGHT!!

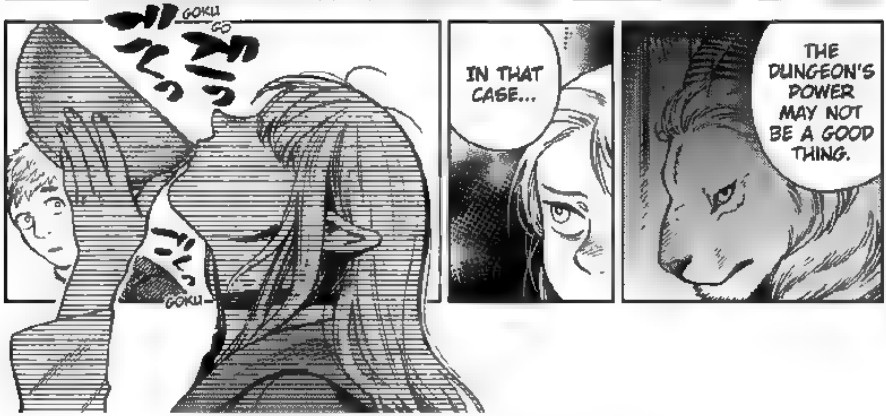

KON
KNOCK
KON
コン
AH!
YOU THINK IT SHOULD BE ON A PLATE AND NOT IN A BOWL?
SARA UDON
PASTA
ISN'T THAT MORE LIKE THIS STUFF!?
WHY ARE YOU SUDDENLY SO DENSE!?
MAR-CILLE!!
THERE, SEE!?
NO WAY! MAR-CILLE!
JII (STARE)
じっ
GHIIK (CREEEAK)
……
FUWAAA (WAFT)
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "THERE, SEE"?
I CAME TO MAKE SURE YOU WEREN'T DOING ANYTHING WEIRD.
YOU MEAN THE SMELL DIDN'T DRAW YOU HERE?
HMF
...WHAT DID YOU MAKE?
GUU (GURGLE)


ZU (SLURP)
ズッ
ZU
ズッ
がっ
GA (CHOMP)
チャ
チャ
チャ
HA
ちゅ
CHUUU (SIP)
カプ
KAPU (MUNCH)


GOKU (GULP)
MAR-CILLE...
ZUZOZO (SHOOOOP)
MUGU (CHEW)
MUGU
MUGU
HOOOO


...YES. IT'S DELICIOUS.
GOKUN
HOW IS IT? GOOD?
GO FOR IT, LAIOS.


THE DUNGEON MADE THEM IMMORTAL...
...BUT NONE OF THEM LOOKED HAPPY AT ALL.
SAME WITH SIGGEL.
YAAD?
LISTEN, MAR-CILLE...
DO YOU REMEMBER EATING WITH YAAD'S PEOPLE?


GOKU
GO
GOKU
IN THAT CASE...
THE DUNGEON'S POWER MAY NOT BE A GOOD THING.

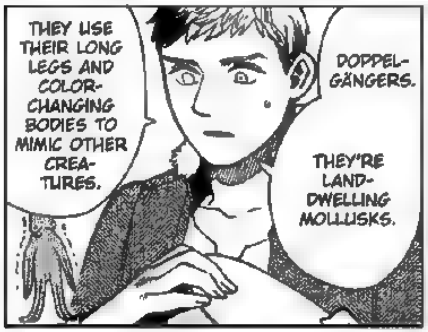

GATA (CLATTER)
THANKS FOR THE FOOD!
I'M SHORT ON TIME, SO I'M GOING.
TON! (THUNK)
WAIT!
MARCILLE! WAIT JUST A—
HEY, MOVE—
BA! (WHIP)


GATAN (CLATTER)
ガタン
WATCH IT!
ガチャ
GACHA (CRASH)
WAAAUGH!
DOOOH (TOPS)
GA (GRAB)
ガッ
GASH (CLANG)
がしゃ
PIN HER DAD DOWN!
AH!
HUH ...!?
ARGH! IF WE HAD A MIRROR...
WHAT ELSE COULD WE USE?
WHAT ELSE ...!?
AAAAH!
IT'S NO GOOD. WE CAN'T BEAT HIM WITH FORCE.

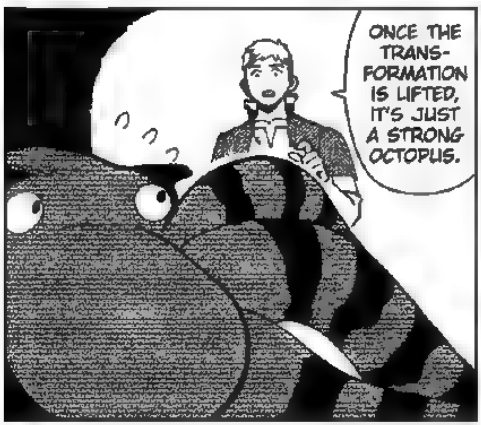

SHE REALLY CLEANED HER BOWL.
WAIT, NOW'S NOT THE TIME!!
RIGHT! THIS'LL WORK!!
WOW, MARCILLE...
AND THERE WAS SO MUCH.
SHE EVEN DRANK ALL THE SOUP.
THAT'S TOO MUCH SALT.
SHE MUST HAVE BEEN HUNGRY...
HEY!
AOOOO!

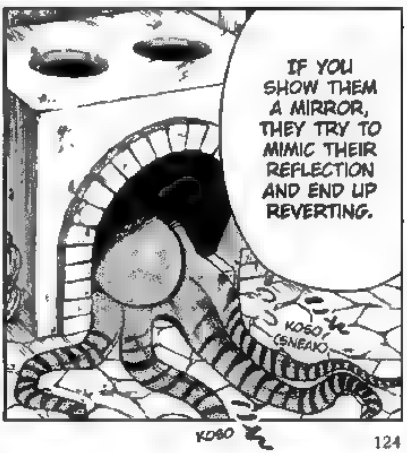

EAT THIS! BOWL ATTACK!
GLUH!
GLUH!
GRRAAAH!
BOKO
BOKO
GLUYA
GLUYA


JURU
ジュルル
JURU
ジュルル
JURU (SHUJIKO)
ジュレ


THEY USE THEIR LONG LEGS AND COLOR-CHANGING BODIES TO MIMIC OTHER CREATURES.
DOPPEL-GÄNGERS.
THEY'RE LAND-DWELLING MOLLUSKS.


THAT'S WHAT HE ACTUALLY WAS!?
UNE
ウネ
A-AN OCTOPUS!?
UNE (WRIGGLE)
ウネ


ONCE THE TRANSFORMATION IS LIFTED, IT'S JUST A STRONG OCTOPUS.


IF YOU SHOW THEM A MIRROR, THEY TRY TO MIMIC THEIR REFLECTION AND END UP REVERTING.
KOSO (SNEAK)
KOSO


IZUTSUMI ISN'T FINISHED EATING.
JUST BRING IT WITH YOU!
OKAY, LET'S GO AFTER MARCILLE!
MAR-CILLE ...!


WE MAKE FOR THE SURFACE!
NOW, WHAT NEXT?
EVERY-THING IS READY.








# 82. MARCILLE -1-







THE ISLAND?


DAM-MIT.
SO THE DEMON STOLE A MARCH ON US, DID HE?
HOW IS IT OVER THERE, ELDER?
IT MERELY LOOKED STABLE.
UNDER THE SURFACE, HE WAS ALWAYS PLOTTING TO OUTWIT US.
YOU'RE SURE YOUR PEOPLE DIDN'T STIR THINGS UP BY GOING ASHORE?
THAT PLACE HAS BEEN STABLE FOR AGES.


ATMOSPHERIC MANA IS CONTINUING TO INCREASE.
AT THIS RATE, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE ENTIRE WORLD IS A DUNGEON.
IN TWO DAYS... NO.
IN THE NEXT DAY, EVERYTHING WILL CHANGE.
MY SWEET CANARIES SHOULD HOLD OUT FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
NOT FOR LONG, HOWEVER.
I'VE SENT THE LOT FROM KAWKA BRUD OVER, BUT WHO KNOWS HOW THAT WILL GO.
THAT'S QUITE AN OUTFIT
EVERY-THING...


ビシ
ビ
ビシ
ゴゴゴ


THE MERCHANTS WANT TO TIGHTEN SECURITY ON THE SURFACE—
BETWEEN ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES, THE PORT IS IN CHAOS. WE'VE HAD COLLISIONS.
IF WE DON'T RESPOND PROMPTLY, THEY SAY THEY'LL LAND AS SOON AS THEY ARRIVE.
TROOPS FROM KAHKA BRUD ARE REQUESTING PERMISSION TO LAND.
MY LORD!
MY LOOORD !!
MY LORD!
WHAT SHOULD WE DO, MY LORD!?
JUST DO WHATEVER YOU WAAANT!


BEYOND THE SMOKE ..
SOME-THING IS...
HM?
...
STRANGE-COLORED SMOKE FROM THE DUNGEON..
IS IT A LEAK OF DENSE MANA ?
NN- WHAT WAS THAT !?








HA HA.
IT WHAT?
THE ISLAND CRACKED, AND SMOKE AND A DRAGON CAME OUT!
WISH! (CLING)
DAAAAD!
YOU SEE LOTS OF ARMED ELVES, TOO... IT SEEMS PRETTY DIRE.
SPEAKING OF THAT, THERE'S BEEN AN ODD INCREASE IN MERCENARIES LATELY.
IT'S ALL RIGHT. THERE ARE LOTS AND LOTS OF SOLDIERS IN KAHKA BRUD.
WHAT IF THE DRAGON EATS ME?
HEY, DAD?
THAT HOLE IN THE ISLAND?
IT LOOKED LIKE A BIG MOUTH.





# 83. MARCILLE -2-




THE...
THE SKY SPLIT, AND THE SKY'S SHOWING THROUGH ...
I'M ON THE HUMANS' SIDE.
I LET LAIOS GO BECAUSE I'D HOPED IT WOULD TURN THE TIDE IN OUR FAVOR.
AS IF, MORON!
YOU'RE ON THEIR SIDE, RIGHT!?
UM. DO YOU THINK YOU COULD UNTIE ME?
AW, CRUD
DID I FAIL TO PERSUADE HIM?
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO AVOID A FIGHT NOW.
OH! CAPTAIN!
I'M TELLING YOU, WE SHOULD HAVE KILLED HIM BACK THERE.
AND DID IT DO THAT!? HUH!?


HMPH.
YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T BE UP YET...
HE'S MAD.
Don't screw up this time!!
SHE'S PRETTY MACHO.
Even if it kills you too!!
Then stop them!
Find the dungeon lord.
No, we need him moving.
LOOK.
WE WON'T HAVE TO. IF THEY'RE HEADING FOR THE SURFACE, THEY'RE BOUND TO PASS THROUGH HERE.
THIS DUNGEON IS HUGE, THOUGH. WHERE SHOULD WE START OUR SEARCH...?


HEE HEE..
ZUN (WARUDO
A HORDE OF MON-STERS...


We'll get down there as fast as we can.
Whatever you do, don't let the demon out!
Give your all to repay Her Majesty's favor!!
FLA-MELA.
WE'VE FOUND THE LORD.
THEY'RE LEADING MONSTERS TO THE SURFACE.
OTTA, CITHIS, THE MONSTERS ARE YOURS.
FLEKI, GUIDE THEM.
I'LL KILL THE DUNGEON LORD.
...SO SHE SAYS.
GEEZ, DOESN'T ASK FOR MUCH, DOES SHE?
LET'S GO.
ON IT.
YES, SIR!
PATTADOL, YOU FOCUS ON PRO-TECTING THE OTHERS.
LYCION, YOU CLEAR A PATH FOR ME.




IT'S ALL LIES
BOKO
BOKO
BOKO
BOKO
BOKO
THOSE PEOPLE ARE UP AHEAD.

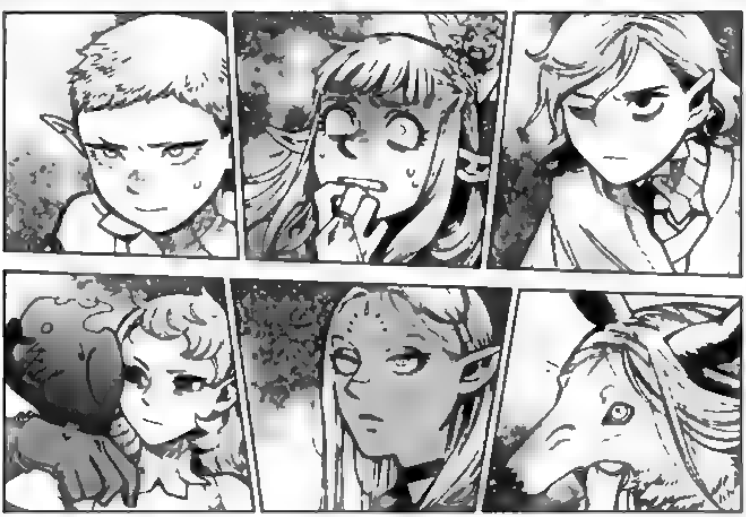

I'LL GIVE YOU SOMETHING GOOD.
WOULD YOU LIKE A LITTLE COURAGE?
I DON'T WANNA...


...WHAT'S THIS?
I CAN'T MOVE.
A CHARM TO GIVE YOU CONFIDENCE.
KURU KEPPO
クルレ
KURU
クルレ
まき
MAKI WRAP
MAKI
"YOU'LL NEVER GIVE UP."
"YOU HAVE THE STRENGTH TO PROTECT YOUR COMPANIONS FROM THE CANARIES."


RA (YAWN)
KU (TILT)
NOT REALLY.
IT'S A DRESS THAT GRANTS COURAGE.
WELL? YOUR FEAR IS FADING, ISN'T IT?
PACHI (CLAP)
PACHI
WHA— HUH!?


TORON (SWOON)
とろ～ん
CHU (SMOOCH)
ちゅっ
YES... I SHOULD.
DON'T LET THEM HURT WHAT'S PRECIOUS TO YOU.
I'LL BE WITH YOU.
JUST FOCUS ON YOUR GOAL.
YOU'RE RIGHT...
I'M NOT SCARED ANY-MORE.
I HAVE TO PROTECT FALIN AND LAIOS AND THE OTHERS.
IT'S UP TO ME...!








FORWARD!!


THEY HAVE THE MONSTERS ON THE DEFENSIVE.
THEY'RE TRIPPING EACH OTHER UP.
THEY'VE GOT NO CHANCE.
ZONA (FIDGET)
ZONA
...OR SO I'D THINK, BUT...
EEK!
BON (BOOM)
DON (BLAM)
EEK!
IN OTHER WORDS, LAIOS ISN'T ON THEIR SIDE!!
..I THINK.
THIS GROUP WOULD BE MADE UP OF FAR NASTIER CREATURES!
TO WIPE OUT MANKIND EFFICIENTLY, WE NEED THESE!
I'M SURE THINGS WOULD BE WORSE!
IF LAIOS HAD SIDED WITH THE MONSTERS—
...I MUSTN'T GIVE UP HOPE YET.
KIKO (SAW)
キコキコ
DID HE FAIL TO PERSUADE HER AND GET CAPTURED OR KILLED?
EITHER WAY...
SU (SET)
THEN WHERE IS HE, AND WHAT'S HE DOING?

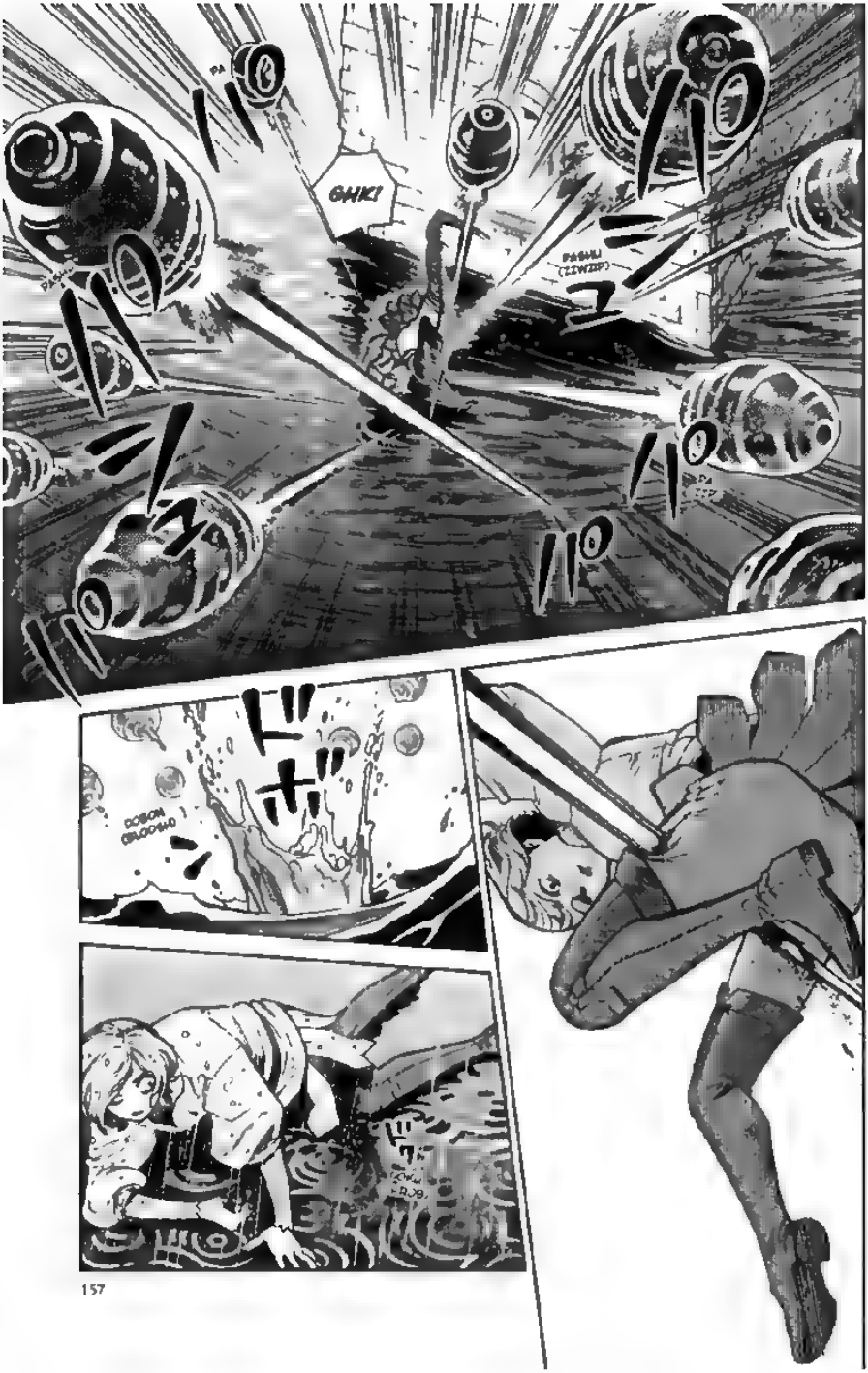

CONTROLLING HER Ffamiliar
KOSO (SNEAK)
KOSO
BARARI (SHUFF)
I HAVEN'T USED IT SINCE I LEARNED IT, BUT...
HMM?
DOKAAAN (KABLAM)
UGH.
I'LL NEED WATER-WALK...
TOSHI-RO...
NAMARI.
...AND ORCS?


GOKIN (KIRAKO)
MISHI (GRUNCH) MISHI
HYUN (WHOOSH)
CAP-TAIN!
BOKI (SNAP)
TO (TAP)
TO
PASHI (SNATCH)


WINGED LION!


UN-
DINES
!!
DOPON
(EXPLOSION)
ドポン
GARI
(SCRAPE)
GARI
GARI
TOPUN
トプン
TOPU
(BLOOP)
トプ
TOPU
トプ



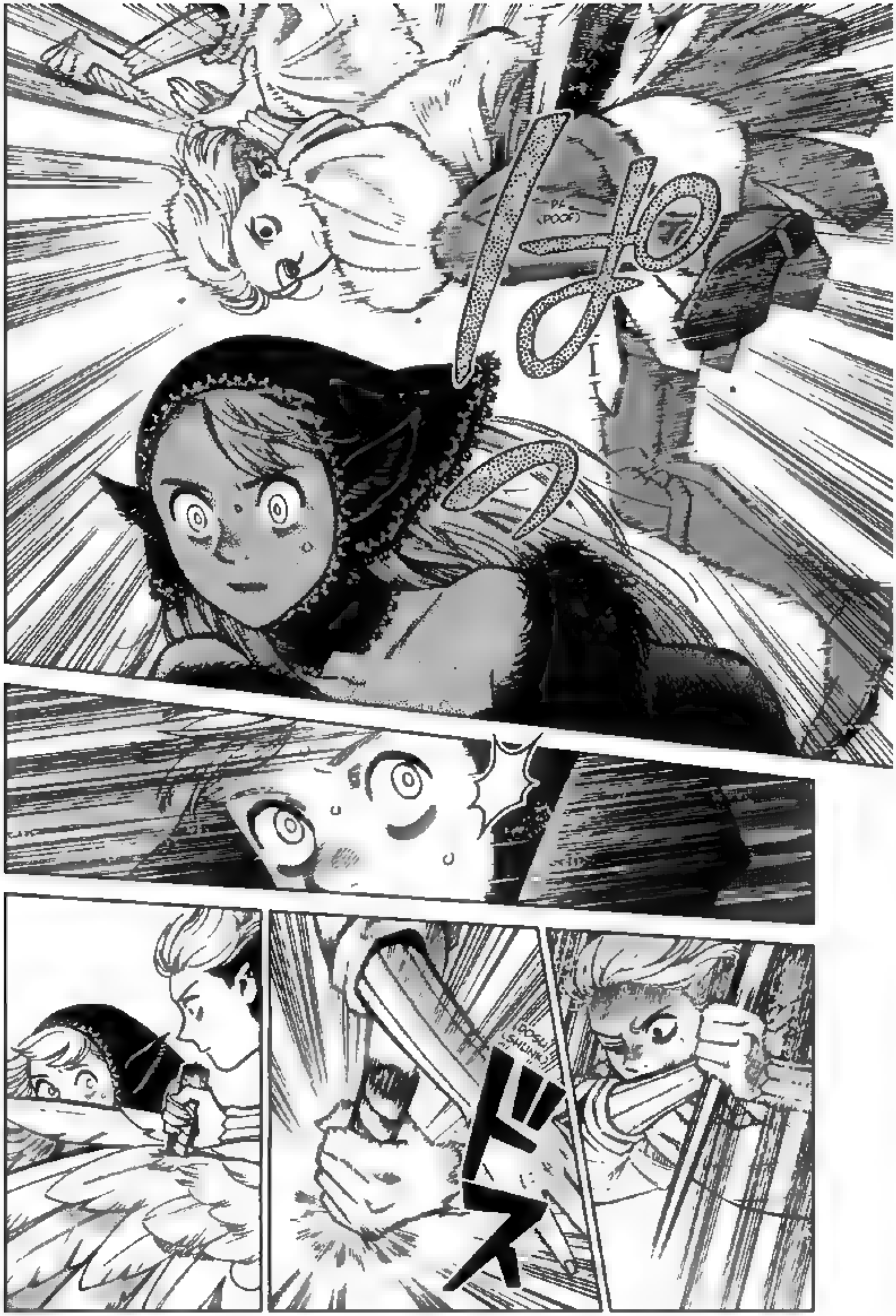

GHK!
PASHU
(ZIWZIP)
PA
DOBON
DROOHU


GETTING SHOT BY AN UNDINE HURTS, DOESN'T IT?
HAVING MY STOMACH IMPALED HURT TOO, THOUGH...
GL (STRAIN)
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!
I KNOW YOU DON'T HAVE THE STRENGTH LEFT TO TELEPORT!
HEH.


HUH...?
YOU'RE A MARIONETTE.
THE DEMON IS STIRRING UP YOUR DESIRES TO CONTROL YOU.
YOU THINK YOU'RE ACTING ON YOUR OWN, BUT HE'S PULLING YOUR STRINGS.
IGNORE HIM.
WHEN ONE DESIRE IS FULFILLED, ANOTHER WILL TORMENT YOU.
TERRIBLE THIRST AND HUNGER...
THOSE CRAVINGS WILL NEVER EASE.
YOUR SHORTSIGHTED WISHES ARE FINE FOOD FOR THAT DEMON.


BOKO (BLOOD)
BOKOKO
I CAN'T GIVE YOU THIS POWER.
I'M USING IT FOR MY DREAM, AND MY FRIENDS!
I SEE...
GIVE IT TO YOU?
AND WHAT HAPPENS TO MY COMPANIONS IF I DO?
WILL YOU PEOPLE BRING THEM BACK TO LIFE IN MY PLACE?
DECIDE!
OR WILL YOU GIVE THAT POWER TO ME!?
WILL YOU DIE HERE?
THEN DIE!!


HE TELE-PORTED !!


ドス


NO GOOD, HUH?
AAAH!


BO (BOOMF)
GAIRA (CREEL)
BASHAA (SPLASH)
CAP-TAIN!!
OH MAN...
MAR-CILLE I?
WHAT THE HECK IS SHE DOING!?


GEEZ.
I THINK THAT MIGHT BE THE END FOR US.
DON (WHIMPER)


CHAPTER 83: THE END

# 84. MARCILLE -3-




NH...
ZURU (DRAG)
BASHA (SPLASH)
ZURU (SHLUCK)
BUT FIRST I'D BETTER SAVE PATTADOL—
WHERE'S FLEK?
CITHIS AND OTTA TOO.
I HAVE TO GET THE CAPTAIN'S BODY BEFORE WATER-WALK WEARS OFF.
HFF!
HFF!
HFF!


THAT DIDN'T TAKE LONG.
I HOPE THE OTHERS REVIVE US.
AH, I SEE.
WE GOT WIPED OUT.
THE ODDS AREN'T GREAT, THOUGH.
JIRI (TENSE)
...?
GU (GRIT)


HN!
BA (VWP)
GUI (YAWN)
BA


...ER, RUNNING MUSH-ROOM?
A NEW TYPE OF WALK-ING...
GA
GA (SHIND)
SUTAKORA (SCAMPER)
MARCILLE'S FIGHTING THE ELVES WITH MON-STERS!?
HOW DID THIS EVEN HAPPEN!?
WHAT'S...
POKAN (GAPE)
HM!?
BRACE!
ACK! THEY'RE COMING THIS WAY!
SUTAKA'AAA (SCUTTLE)
H-HEY.
TON TON (TAP)


L... LAIOS!?
EWW
IT WAS A DISGUISE TO HELP US SLIP PAST MARCILLE.
HE WAS BORN THAT WAY.
WHY ARE YOU—
YOU LOOK LIKE AN IDIOT!!
THAT'S HOW WE MANAGED TO GET THIS FAR.
KOSO (SNEAK)
KOSO


MARCILLE BECAME THE LORD OF THE DUNGEON.
NO...
OR MAYBE I SHOULD SAY SHE WAS FORCED TO.
WHAT HAPPENED TO HER!?
THE MONSTERS ARE FOLLOWING HER, AND SHE BLEW A GUY'S HEAD OFF!
YEAH ...
MAR-CILLE...
THEY WERE JUST A TRIGGER.
HUH?
WE THOUGHT WE'D CHOSEN THE BEST PATH, BUT...
FORCED?
WHAT, BY THE ELVES?
IF IT HADN'T BEEN HER, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ME.
AN IDEAL WORLD...
FREE THE WINGED LION.
I THINK...
NYORO (SLITHER)
AH!
DEFEAT THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN...
...AND BECOME THE NEW KING.
...I GET THE FEELING WE WERE BEING STEERED TOWARD THIS ALL ALONG.


...THE DUN-GEON'S POWER...
...MAY ACTUALLY BE SOMETHING BAD!!
ドン!
DON (BANG)
THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN TELLING YOU!!
COME TO THINK OF IT, MAYBE YOU DID.
...SO?
I TOLD YOU IT WAS ALL TO HELP THE DEMON GET TO THE SURFACE!
YES!!
HUH? YOU SAID THAT?
THIS GUY NEVER LISTENS TO PEOPLE.
HOW DO WE SHUT THIS SITUATION DOWN?
HUH?
AS...
...STOP THE MONSTERS, AND MAKE THE DUNGEON GO BACK TO NORMAL?
HOW CAN WE GET MARCILLE AWAY FROM THE WINGED LION...
SHUT IT DOWN?


IT'LL CALM DOWN IF YOU KILL THE DUNGEON'S LORD.
FOR A TIME, ANYWAY.
WHAT!?
THAT'S WHY I TRIED SO HARD TO STOP YOU!
AS IF WE COULD!!
KILL MARCILLE ...?
IT'S THE ONLY WAY.
AT THAT POINT, IT'S BASICALLY PAST SAVING.
WHEN IT'S GONE THIS FAR, THOUGH, THE DEMON WILL PROTECT THE LORD IN EARNEST.
UM...
THEN—
THE ONLY...


HOW CAN WE DEFEAT THE DEMON?
THE DEMON'S NOT A LIVING CREATURE.
IT'S NOT?
I'LL HEAL THAT.
LISTEN, FRIEND. DO YOU THINK THE DEMON'S A TYPE OF MONSTER?
HAAH...


IT'S MAGIC ITSELF. DOES THAT MAKE SENSE?
IT'S A SUBSTANCE THAT LEAKS INTO OUR WORLD...
...FROM A DIMENSION BEYOND, WHERE "INFINITY" EXISTS.
THE MONSTERS YOU ATE.
THIS BUILDING.
THE GROUND.
YOU COULD SAY THEY'RE ALL PART OF THE DEMON.
...I'M RETRIEVING THE OTHERS' BODIES.
IF WATER-WALK WEARS OFF, IT'LL BE A PAIN.
I'M MAKING A RUN FOR IT, OBVIOUSLY.
OR I'D LIKE TO, BUT...
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU AIM TO BEAT...
WELL, GOOD LUCK.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?


I DON'T REALLY GET IT...
EAGLE (VALIANT)
しゅっ
...BUT WE'LL KEEP THE MONSTERS BUSY.
YOU GO AND SNAP MARCILLE OUT OF IT!
ばん!
BAN (SMACK)
SIGGEL, THE PREVIOU
NGEON LORD, SEEMED
EASONABLE, BUT HE
AEN'T. MAYBE THAT'
JUST W HAPPENG W
OMEON ECOMEG T
ORD OF UNGEON,
BUT SHE'S ELY UNLIK
BUT IF YOU THIN
ABOUT IT, IF THEY
COULD USE THAT POW
I DON'T KNOW HOW.
HUH!?
WE TRIED LOTS OF THINGS...
...BUT SHE JUST REFUSES TO LISTEN.
LET'S GO, MEN!
BA (LEAD)
ぱっ
DUG?
THINK OF SOME-THING!
THEN TRY HITTING HER!
SLAP HER, KNOCK HER DOWN...
FIX THIS!!


I CAN'T WIN AGAINST MONSTERS.
WHAT, YOU'RE STAYING?
YOU KNOW YOUR LIMITS. GOOD FOR YOU.
.....
BUT THE DEMON'S PROTECTING HER.
WHAT IF WE KILLED HER, TIED HER UP, THEN REVIVED HER?
SO WE CAN'T BEAT THE DEMON...
...MEANING WE'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT MARCILLE?
GOOD QUESTION.
WHAT DO WE DO, LAIOS?
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING!?
...SO SHE WON'T BE HUNGRY FOR A WHILE.
WE FED HER ...
WHAT ABOUT DRUGGING HER FOOD?


ドド
ガガ
RED DRAGONS!
AND LOTS OF MONSTER REIN-FORCE-MENTS!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, LAOS?
THIS IS GETTING UGLY!
WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO THINK!


I DON'T... KNOW.
I CAN'T READ ITS BEHAV-IOR.
I CAN'T PREDICT WHAT IT WILL DO. .
...AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE SHOULD DO.
IT HAS NO INSTINCTS OR HAB-ITS..
BUT THE DEMON'S NOT ALIVE.
NO BONES OR FLESH OR BLOOD.
WE CAN'T KILL IT. EATING IT WOULDN'T REDUCE IT.
IF WE'RE GOING TO STOP MARCILLE, WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE DEMON.
HEH HEH HEH.
AH-HA-HA-HA-HA!
"DEFEAT-ING THE DEMON" ...
...IS LIKE "DEFEATING WATER" OR "DEFEATING AIR."


ZONA (SLITHER)
WAH-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!
ZUAAAAA (SHOOOO)
THERE IS A WAY TO CALM THE CHAOS, YOU KNOW.
MARCILLE ASKED ME TO COME CHECK ON YOU.
SORRY TO LISTEN IN.
WINGED LION!!
WALIGH!?
I KNEW I LIKED YOU.


"I WANT THIS CHAOS TO SUBSIDE."
THEN SIMPLY WISH—
YOU BECOME THE LORD OF THE DUNGEON AS WELL.
...THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT YOU TO KNOW.
BE-SIDES ...
THIS SITUATION EXISTS BECAUSE SHE WISHED FOR IT.
I DON'T GIVE ORDERS.
I'D BE A PUPPET BEFORE I COULD BLINK.
MARCILLE ENDED UP LIKE THAT, AND SHE'S MUCH SMARTER THAN ME.
EVEN I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT—
IT'S THE TRUTH.
YOU'RE LYING.
...I WANT TO MAKE ALL HUMANS HAPPY.
IN FACT...
I DON'T WANT TO DESTROY MANKIND.


I'D LIKE TO GRANT THE WISHES OF EVERYONE IN THE WORLD.
I LIKE HUMAN DESIRES.
WHEN I FULFILL THEM, IT'S VERY SATISFYING FOR ME.
FULFILLING ONE DESIRE...
...CAN DESTROY THE CHANCE OF FULFILLING ANOTHER.
ONCE GRANTED, WISHES DISAPPEAR.
BUT THERE ARE TOO MANY RESTRICTIONS HERE!!
THAT WAY, WITH YOU WITHIN ME...
...I'LL BE ABLE TO GRANT ALL OF YOUR WISHES FOR ETERNITY.
TO THAT END, I WANT TO SWALLOW THE WHOLE WORLD.


I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.
I'LL SIMPLIFY IT A BIT MORE, THEN.
I...
WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE FOOD?
.....
CHEESE-CAKE!
OH, SO IT'S NOT MONSTERS?
CLINGLEY BREWERY'S STOUT.
HIPPOGRIFF SOUP.
CRAB.
IMAGINE THIS, THEN.
THE MOMENT YOU TAKE THAT FIRST BITE.
YOUR BELLY FILLING UP WITH YOUR FAVORITE DISH.


NO MATTER THE FOOD, IT'S GONE THE MOMENT YOU EAT IT.
SO IT IS WITH THE HIGH POINTS IN LIFE.
THE MOMENT YOUR CHILD IS BORN.
THE MOMENT YOUR LOVE IS RETURNED.
WHEN YOUR HEART'S DESIRE IS GRANTED.
NO MATTER THE IMPULSE, IT GRADUALLY DIMINISHES.


I CAN BRING ALL PEOPLE...
...PERFECT, ETERNAL HAPPINESS!
DESIRE THAT NEVER GROWS STALE!
THERE ARE NO CONTRA-DICTIONS, NO INEQUALITIES.
...NEITHER TIME NOR DEPLETION EXISTS.
HOWEVER, WITHIN ME...


B-BUT...
NO...!
YAAD?
.....
IT'S BLAS-PHEMY.
WHA ...?
WHAT'S THE POINT OF THAT?
LAIOS.
I'D BE HAPPY IF YOU WERE THAT SOMEONE.
SADLY, I CAN'T GRANT MY OWN WISH.
I MUST WAIT FOR SOMEONE SYMPA-THETIC TO WISH IT FOR ME.


YOU WANT TO SAVOR HUMAN DESIRES FOREVER.
THAT'S YOUR ESSENTIAL TRAIT, AND YOUR INSTINCT.
I SEE...
YOU TRY TO APPRECIATE THE INHUMAN.
I LIKE THAT ABOUT YOU.
IS IT LIKE A WHALE TRYING TO FILL UP AT A RESTAURANT FOR ANTS...?
I DO SYMPATHIZE WITH THAT A LITTLE.
YOU CAN'T SATISFY YOUR APPETITE .N THIS WORLD.
LEARNING THE HABITS AND THOUGHTS OF WHAT ONE LIKES, TO TRY TO UNDERSTAND THEM...
YOU DO IT AS WELL, DON'T YOU?
YES, BECAUSE HUMANS TAUGHT ME TO COMMUNICATE.
YOU EMPHASIZE THAT YOU'RE SUPERNATURAL, BUT YOU SOUND REALLY HUMAN.


LISTENING TO CON MEN IS A WASTE OF TIME.
I'LL GO HELP THE OTHERS.
AS MUCH AS I CAN, ANYWAY.
THIS IS RIDICU-LOUS...
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
EARLI-ER...
HE'LL DANGLE A TEMPTING SOLUTION AND PRESS YOU TO CHOOSE...
...WITH YOUR FRIENDS' AND SISTER'S LIVES AS HOSTAGES.
I ALREADY KNOW WHAT HE'LL SAY NEXT.
NOW I BELIEVE YOU'LL CHOOSE US.
...I WOULD HAVE BEEN AFRAID YOU'D CHOOSE HIM.


KILLING MARCILLE IS REALLY THE ONLY WAY NOW...
...BUT CAN HE DO THAT?
HE DID KILL HIS SISTER, THOUGH.
HUH...?
GETTING EATEN BY SOMETHING STRONGER IS A NATURAL LAW..
I'M NERVOUS...
DON (BAOMP)
DON!
GRRR...
RAH!
RAH!
RA!
PEN THEM IN!
THE PROBLEM IS WHAT COMES AFTER...
FOR NOW, LET'S JOIN FORCES AND STOP THE MONSTERS!
AND THE ORCS AREN'T THE DUNGEON'S PAWNS!
HE'S WITH ONE OF THE SURFACE FACTIONS!
WAIT, REALLY?
YOU AREN'T ENEMIES!
WAIT! STOP!


YOU KNOW THE DUNGEON'S CHANGED SHAPE, RIGHT?
THE SURFACE IS VERY CLOSE.
VERY CLOSE!?
KABRU!!
GUYS!? HOW DID YOU GET DOWN HERE?
A-ALL RIGHT.
WE HAVE TO TAKE OUT AS MANY MONSTERS AS POSSIBLE!
HELP US!
THEN MONSTERS WHO ESCAPE WILL GET OUT...!
WE CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN.
NGH!
THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM.
SUPA (SPLIT)
BARI (ZZT)
BARI
BARI
DO (SHUNK)


LORD (CROWD)
RAAAAAH!
IF WE DON'T KILL THEM HERE, THE WORLD IS DONE FOR!
GO!
A MONSTER HORDE!
THERE'S NO MISTAKE! THE DUNGEON'S LORD IS HERE!
DOOON
PAN (BANG)!
DON
RAAAAH!
...IT MAY WORK OUT—
WITH THIS MUCH FORCE ON OUR SIDE...
WHEW...


BO (THOOM)
WAH!
SNIFF
MINO-TAUR!
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING!
THAT AIN'T LIKE FIGHTING WALKING MUSH-ROOMS
NOT POSSIBLE!
FIGHT!
HEY! DON'T GET COLD FEET!


BRING IT, DAMN YOU!
DO (STOMP)
DON (BOOM)
AAH!
AAH!
AAH!
AAH!
OH. THIS IS BAD.
MY LEGS WENT WEAK...
DOKLIN (RADUMP)
DOKLIN
THIS IS HOW IT HAPPENED IN UTAYA...

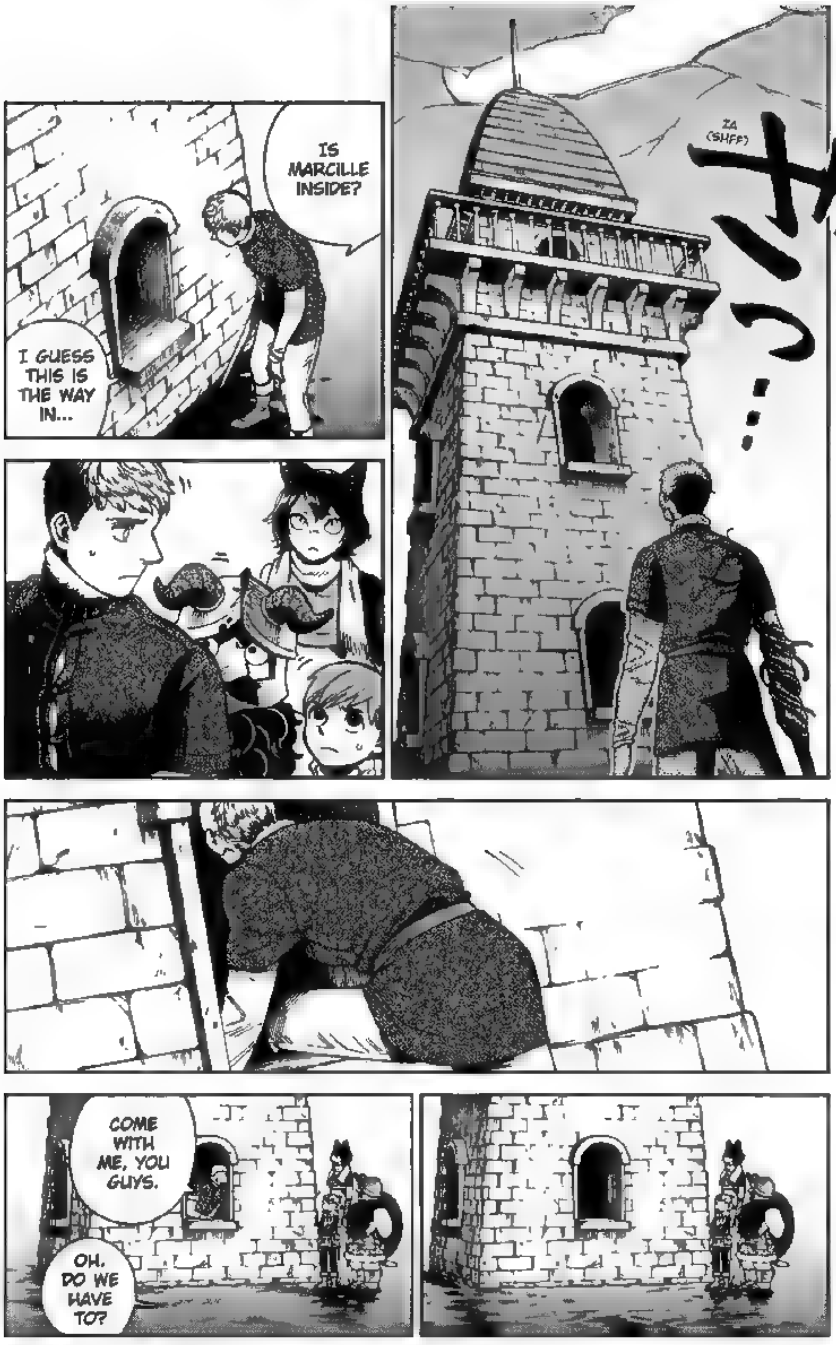

ズゴ
KABRU !!
RUN—
ガニ
OH...


PITA (CRISP)
FUU (WHIP)
...?
!?
ZUN (STOMP)
GU (GROUCH)






W-WE CAAAN'T.
THE MONSTERS ARE IN THE WAY...
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
!!?
STOP THEM!!
HE'S THE KING OF MONSTERS.
ZAWA
ざわ
MONSTER KING LAIOS.
ざわ
ZAWA (MURMUR)
COMMUNICATING WITH MONSTERS ...?
LOOK AT THAT GROTESQUE ARM.
DAMMIT!
SO THEY REALLY ARE CONTROLLING THEM.
IT'S ALL RIGHT. THE MISUNDERSTANDING WON'T LAST.
THEY'RE TALKING CRAZY OVER THERE.
ZPO (BLUSH)
HEY! QUIT BEING HAPPY ABOUT THIS.


IS MARCILLE INSIDE?
I GUESS THIS IS THE WAY IN...
ZA (SHFF)
ゴゴゴ…
COME WITH ME, YOU GUYS.
OH. DO WE HAVE TO?







# 85. MARCILLE -4-


HELLO? MARCILLE?
WHERE ARE YOU?
BRR! IT'S COLD.
GET US SOME LIGHT.
I CAN'T SEE A THING.
MM.
ぽっ
ぽ?
ぽ?


FALIN!?
SHE'S FROZEN SOLID...
DID MARCILLE DO THIS!?
BUT WHY IN THE WORLD...?
(BOOOO (BLAZE))
WAAAAH!
IN OTHER WORDS...
...SHE HASN'T GIVEN UP ON HAVING EVERYONE HELP US EAT THE DRAGON!
THIS IS A GOOD SIGN!!
SHE FROZE HER CORPSE TO KEEP IT FRESH.
THIS WAY, WE CAN TAKE OUR TIME COOKING THE DRAGON PARTS LATER.
...WE CAN BEAT MARCILLE WITH SHEER VIOLENCE...
WELL, I DOUBT...
NO, I'D WIN.
...AND YOU STILL THINK WE CAN TALK THIS OUT? WOW.
YOU SAW ALL THAT...
MARCILLE HASN'T LOST HERSELF COMPLETELY!
WE STILL HAVE A CHANCE TO TALK!


...WHY DID YOU COME HERE?
AH!
I-I CAN'T...
IF YOU'RE HERE TO STOP ME, THEN LEAVE.
...DEAL WITH YOU NOW.
MAR-CILLE!
THEY WON'T STOP...
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.
HOW CAN WE CLIMB UP?


THINGS I WANT. WHAT I WANT TO DO.
IT ALL JUST KEEPS FLOODING IN, AND IT WON'T STOP...
ARE YOU OKAY, MAR-CILLE?
WE'LL FIX IT SOMEHOW, JUST...
...STAY RIGHT THERE—
I-IT'S SO LOUD... I CAN'T TAKE IT...
I THINK I'M LOSING MY MIND.
AH!
AAAH!!
HM?


WAUGH!
HUH?
IT'S PIE.
WH-WHAT IN THE...!?
LOADED WITH SUGAR AND BUTTER!!
I WANT SOME GOOD PIE!


PEACHES, APPLES...
BOKO (BOP)
JUICY ORANGES...
BAKED GOLDEN BROWN...
...WITH A LATTICE-TOP CRUST.
I WANT TO EAT FRUIT TOO.
A PACK THAT'S EASY TO USE.
ZUN (THUD)
GAN (WHAM)
A BRUSH FOR IZU-TSUMI.
BOTA (PLOP)
I WANT NEW GEAR.
NEW SHOES.
A WARM SLEEPING BAG.
SH-SHE'S GONNA CRUSH US!
TAKE SHELTER ON THE PIE!


THIS IS...
I CAN'T TELL WHAT KIND OF DIE IT IS...
HEY!
ぽん
SO ANYTHING MARCILLE WISHES FOR APPEARS?
BRING HER HERE, THEN!
YOU AREN'T MY MASTER, THOUGH.
I SIMPLY FULFILL MY MASTER'S WISHES.
NOTH-ING.
WINGED LION, WHAT DID YOU DO TO HER?
THINK HIS ARM'S STUCK LIKE THAT FOR LIFE?


...OF THE RACES...
THE LIFE SPANS...
HURRY...
I HAVE TO GET TO THE SURFACE...
THERE'S SO MUCH I WANT TO DO...
THE RACIAL DIVIDE...
TRANSFORMATION...
UGH!
GO TO THE SURFACE!
TO THE SURFACE!
ZO (CROWD)
YES, BUT HOW!?
DISTRACT HER, MAYBE!?
MAKE HER STOP WISHING!
HOW!?
HEY! THE MONSTERS ARE ON THE MOVE AGAIN!


LET'S MAKE ONE!!!
I'LL MAKE YOU ONE!!
A SWEET STEWED DRYAD PIE!
OR A MINOTAUR CUSTARD PIE!!
I CAN MAKE IT MUCH BETTER THAN THIS!
WHAT KIND DO YOU WANT!?
WITH A LATTICE-TOP CRUST, YOU SAID!?


PITA
(FREEZE)
ぴた…!
?
……
……
ボトン
BOTON
(PLOMO)
ひゅっ
(FX: WHOOSH)


THERE'S A TYPE OF MAN-EATING PLANT WHOSE FRUIT RESEMBLES LEMONS.
THEY HAVE A STRIKING CITRUSY, FLORAL FRAGRANCE ...
...THAT'S DEEP AND COMPLEX.
I SEE.
IT'S MADE WITH JAM, HMM?
I HAVE JUST THE RECIPE FOR THIS.
WE DIDN'T SEE ANY ON THIS TRIP, SADLY ...
...BUT SOMEDAY, I'LL MAKE YOU A PIE FROM THAT FRUIT!!
THEY'RE QUITE BITTER BUT EXQUISITE WHEN STEWED IN SUGAR!
I SMELL LEMON.
APPARENTLY I MADE HER HUNGRY.
BARA
BARA TUMBLE
BARA!


SENSHI!
THAT'S IT...!
WHAT ABOUT MEAT PIES!?
!
WHEN WE GRILLED THE RED DRAGON, YOU SAID IT COULD HAVE BEEN BETTER, REMEMBER!?
WOULDN'T IT BE GOOD IN A PIE!?
...!
.....
WE'LL USE THE BIGGEST INGRE-DIENTS AROUND TOO!
IT WILL BE A SPLENDID PIE, BURSTING WITH SAVORY VEGETABLES AND JUICY MEAT.
A FINE IDEA.
WE'LL MINCE IT, MIX IN ONIONS AND CARROTS, THEN WRAP IT IN CRUST.
ばらん
BARAN
ばらん
BARAN


—TOO.
HM!?
OR COMFORTABLE CHAIRS.
WHAT ABOUT, UH...
...CUTE DISHES!
WHAT ELSE!?
PIE WON'T BE ENOUGH ON ITS OWN, RIGHT?
PITTOH (ACCOSH)
I WANT DAD TO EAT SENSHI'S COOKING TOO!!
DOSA
DOSA (FWUMP)


SUNNY... WARD?
OH, UM. HI...
GYOROR! (GLARE)
AAAH! DOPPEL-GÄNGERS !!
HSSSSS
KSS
UM, UMM...
WITH WHAT!?
OH, RIGHT.
NOT GOOD! DISTRACT HER, HURRY!
WAAA
GUH (S.THER)


DO YOU WANT TO MEET MY FAMILY!?
IF ALL OF THIS WORKS OUT, I'M PLANNING...
...TO GET THEM TOGETHER AND T-TALK ABOUT THIS TRIP!
HE SOLD HIS OWN FAMILY.
WHEN I DO, I WANT ALL OF YOU TO BE THERE!
CHILCHUCK'S FAMILY...
BA CTURD
I WANT TO MEET THEM!!


I WANT TO DO THAT!!
...SO HELP ME THINK OF A WAY TO PATCH THINGS UP WITH THEM!!
I DON'T WANT TO REPEAT MY MISTAKES...
I DON'T WANT TO PUT MY FAMILY IN DANGER.
BUT NO MON-STERS!
C'MON, IZUTSUMI, YOU SAY SOMETHING TOO.
LIKE WHAT?
JUST WHAT-EVER!
MY BUDGET'S NOT THAT BIG!
SHE WANTS YOU TO GIVE THEM FLOWERS AND JEWELRY.

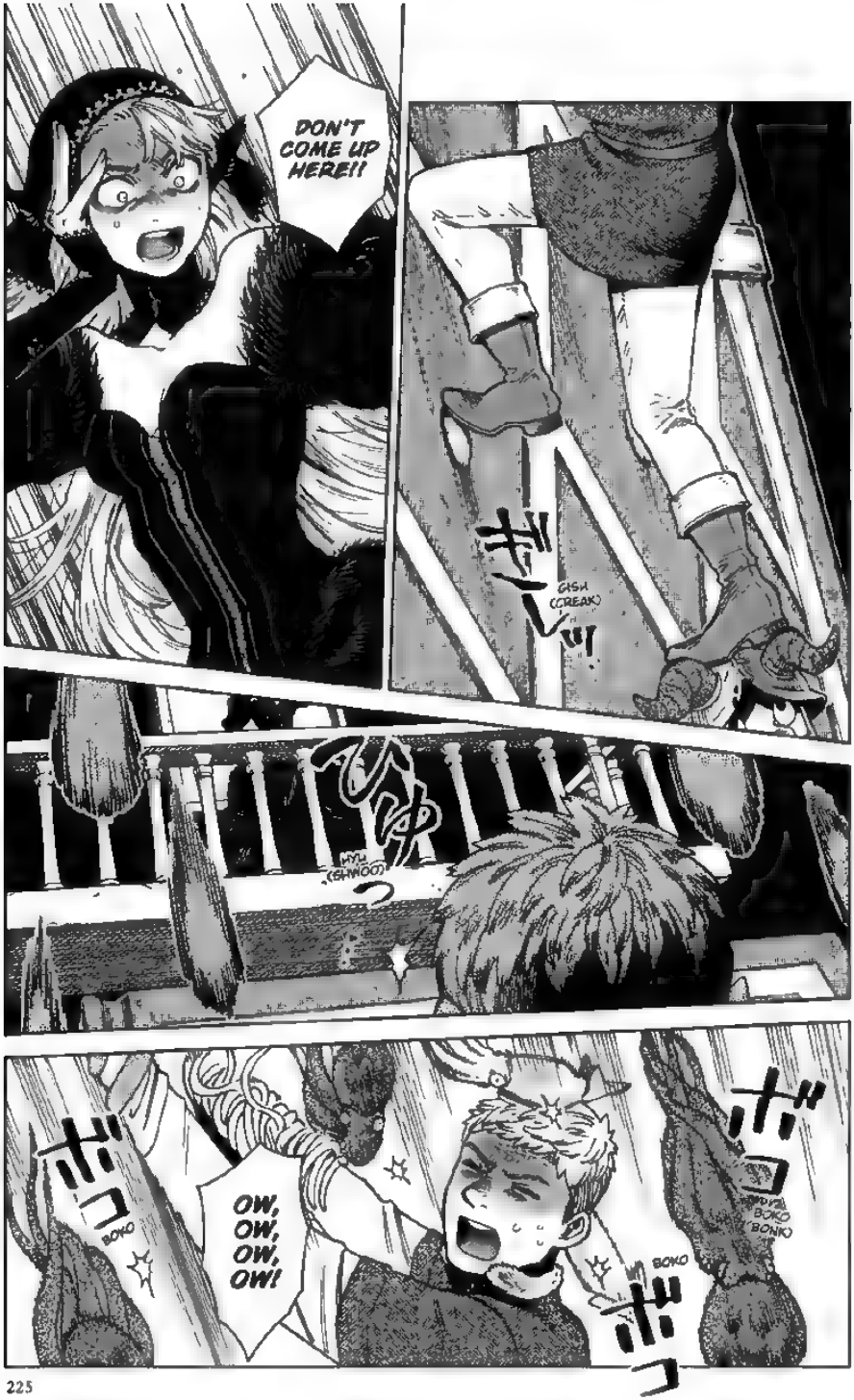

...SO I AT LEAST WANT TO GET BACK AT THE JERK WHO DID THIS TO ME.
IT LOOKS LIKE I'M STUCK WITH THIS BODY...
OKAY, GIMME A ROW-BOAT!!
YAAD, THE TALKING DOLL!
THE POOR GUY GOT HIS SOUL BONDED WITH A DOLL!
HEH...
BESIDES, I'VE PICKED UP A BUDDY.
A BUDDY ?
WAIT, "YAAD"? ISN'T THAT—
FOUND 'IM AT THE LUNATIC WHOSIT'S HOUSE.
WHEN DID YOU MAKE A FRIEND?
WE'LL CROSS THE OCEAN TO THRASH THAT BLACK MAGICIAN.
HELP MEEE!


BON
!!
CREAK
DOSA
DOSA
DOSA (FWUMP)
BOOKS ON MORALS AND ETHICS.
ANCIENT MAGIC HISTORY...
MAPS, SEA CHARTS
HEY! ARE YOU SCREWING WITH ME!?
WHERE'S MY BOAT?
GU (GRIP)
IF I HAD THAT POWER—
HEE
LIKE AN ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BANQUET OF ALL YOUR FAVORITES.
I BET IT WOULD BE FUN TO MAKE A WORLD WITH THAT.
...THE POWER TO GRANT ANY WISH, HUH?
GACHI (CLICK)
GACHI

RR
A
A
A
AA
A
AH
!

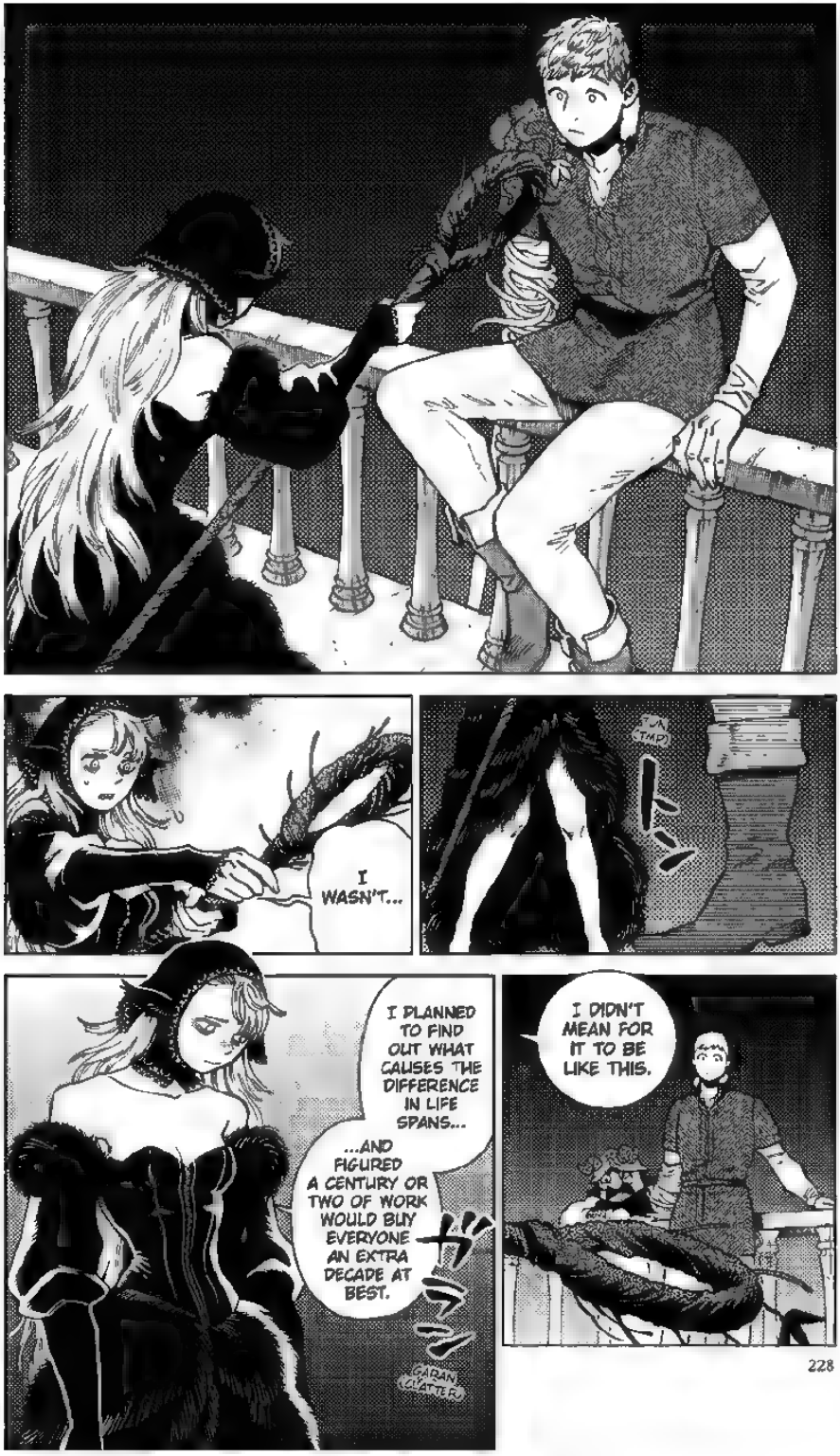

ズズ
(SLIDE)...
GO, GO, GO!
GOOD! NOW!
むにゅ
(GRAB)...
—I WOULDN'T PUT ANY SQUID OR OCTOPUS IN MY WORLD!
THEY DIDN'T TASTE THAT GREAT ...
...AND THEY'VE GIVEN ME NOTHING BUT GRIEF!


YOU WOULDN'T WANT A BANQUET LIKE THAT, WOULD YOU?
...I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GETTING AT, BUT...
...WITH THIS POWER, I CAN MAKE PEOPLE LIKE WHATEVER I WANT.
AND IS THAT...
...REALLY WHAT YOU WANT?


DON'T COME UP HERE!!
GISH (CREAK)
MYU (SHOOO)
OW, OW, OW, OW!
BOKO
BOKO
BOKO
BOKO
BOKO


...YOU COULD USE THAT POWER RIGHT NOW AND MAKE NEW VERSIONS OF US THAT AGREE WITH YOUR DREAM.
IF IT IS...
EVEN FALIN!
JUST HAVE THE WINGED LION RESURRECT HER IN HER ORIGINAL SHAPE.
HOW WARPED THAT POWER IS.
YOU ACTUALLY DO SEE IT, DON'T YOU...


I BET AN IDEAL WORLD...
...WITH NOTHING UNPLEASANT, INCONVENIENT, OR WORRYING...
...WOULDN'T HAVE ANY HAPPINESS IN IT EITHER!
YOU NEED TO LET THAT POWER GO!
SHUT UP!
SHUT UP!
SHUT UP!!!


I WASN'T...
(A TMP)
I PLANNED TO FIND OUT WHAT CAUSES THE DIFFERENCE IN LIFE SPANS...
...AND FIGURED A CENTURY OR TWO OF WORK WOULD BUY EVERYONE AN EXTRA DECADE AT BEST.
I DIDN'T MEAN FOR IT TO BE LIKE THIS.


EXCEPT, DURING THIS ADVENTURE, I REALIZED SOMETHING.
AT THAT PACE, AFTER A HUNDRED YEARS, YOU'D ALL BE GONE.
A-AND THEN...
...WHAT I WAS TRYING TO DO WOULD BE POINTLESS.
I WANT TO STAY WITH YOU MY WHOLE LIFE.
IS IT SO WRONG TO PUSH DEATH AWAY FOR A CAUSE LIKE THAT?


WE ATE ALL SORTS OF THINGS EVERY DAY, DIDN'T WE.
DELICIOUS THINGS, DISGUSTING THINGS...
MARCILLE.
THERE WERE HARD TIMES, BUT IT WAS FUN.
SOMETIMES WE ALMOST DIED IN THE PROCESS.
WE KILLED AND ATE LOTS OF CREATURES.
NO.
WE NEED TO ADMIT IT.
STOP.
JUST... DON'T FINISH THAT SENTENCE.
IN THE FIRST PLACE...
...WE SET FORTH ON THIS ADVENTURE BECAUSE—


IF THE RED DRAGON HADN'T EATEN FALIN BACK THEN...
...WE WOULD NEVER HAVE HAD SUCH A GREAT ADVENTURE!
I'M BORED WITH THIS PLACE. LET'S GO.
THERE'S OTHER STUFF I WANT TO DO NOW.
IF THERE'S A FOOD YOU WANT, I'LL TEACH YOU HOW TO MAKE IT
THEN YOU CAN HAVE IT ANYTIME YOU LIKE.
OW.
ARE YOU STUPID!?
BASH! (THWAP)
WHAT ABOUT "EVERY CLOUD HAS A SILVER LINING"?
THERE HAS TO BE A BETTER WAY TO SAY THAT!
CHIRA (GLANCE)
IT'S—
...
.....?
...HOW TO STRETCH OUR LIFE SPANS WITHOUT THE WINGED LION'S POWER.
BESIDES, WE'VE KNOWN ALL ALONG ...


A BAL-ANCED DIET!!
R—
REGU-LATING OUR DAILY RHY-THMS!!
AND MOD-ERATE EXER-CISE!!
IF WE WATCH THESE THREE POINTS...
...WE'LL NATURALLY WORK OUR WAY TO STRONG BODIES!!


PORO (DRIP)
ぽ
3
LILI...
PORO
ぽ
3
AAH...


WAAAAAH!!

# TRANSLATION NOTES

**Page 78**
The *kaconk* in the first panel is the sound of a pail being set down on a tile floor. Japanese people generally shower and wash their hair outside the bathtub and just use the bath to soak. After getting washed up but before getting into the bath, they'd typically rinse the soap off with a pail of water. Especially at large public bathhouses, the sound of the pail being set down echoes loudly, and the sound has come to be connected with bathing in general. In this case, the sound effect is just being used for atmosphere.

**Page 116**
The cuisine from Marcille's hometown (ramen) includes a soft-boiled egg in its ingredients. In traditional ramen, this soft-boiled egg is peeled and marinated in soy sauce before being added to the soup.

**Page 117**
*Sara udon*, or "plate udon," is a Japanese noodle dish influenced by Chinese cuisine that was created in Nagasaki. Sara udon consists of a bed of noodles (either thin, crispy, fried noodles or thicker Chinese noodles) topped with cabbage, bean sprouts, and other vegetables, plus squid, shrimp, fish cake, or pork in a thick, savory sauce. Aside from the name, the dish has almost nothing in common with regular udon, but the name is what Laios has picked up on. Regular udon is a noodle soup served in a bowl, while sara udon is served on a plate.

**Page 237**
The dish shown at the bottom is *takoyaki*, or octopus dumplings. They are made of a savory wheat-flour batter with diced octopus, tempura scraps, pickled ginger, and green onion mixed in. After the takoyaki are cooked, they are topped with a special takoyaki sauce, mayonnaise, bonito shavings, and bits of dried green seaweed, then speared with toothpicks and eaten.

**Page 239**
In the final panel of the original, Laios says, "At any rate!" as a way to change the subject while not confirming or denying Chilchuck's accusation. The phrase used is actually an unintentional pun on his part. While its kanji (Chinese characters) are almost never used to write out the phrase in Japanese, one of the characters comes from the "horned rabbit" phrase Shuro mentions in panel 4 on this page. Incidentally, the phrase existed long before these kanji were assigned, and the characters were chosen for their phonetic value rather than their meaning.

*To be continued...*


YES, IT IS.
IT'S AN OCTOPUS.
HOW COULD IT MAKE EIGHT LEGS LOOK LIKE TEN FINGERS?
BUT AN OCTOPUS COULDN'T CONVINCINGLY FAKE BEING HUMAN.
MISC. MONSTER TALES
12
DOPPELGANGER
2.
ADJUST THE DETAILS WITH COLOR.
1.
COPY THE GENERAL SHAPE.
THE CLEVEREST PART OF THEIR MIMICRY IS THE COLORATION FROM THEIR PIGMENT CELLS.
THEY DON'T HAVE TO.
THESE CREATURES ARE BOTH CLEVER AND GOOD AT MIMICRY.
IT BENDS PROPERLY AT THE JOINTS...
...AND ITS HEAD IS WHERE IT SHOULD BE.
ONCE IT UNDERSTANDS THE SUBJECT BETTER, IT TRANSFORMS.
IT CAN USE A WHOLE RANGE OF SHADES TO RECREATE TEXTURES AND DEPTH.
HEY, YOU'RE RIGHT.


SAY, WE'RE IN A PRETTY TOUGH SPOT RIGHT NOW.
GOT ANY GOOD IDEAS?
YOU'RE ASKING THE OCTOPUS!?
I'M STILL A NOVICE.
AND MODEST BESIDES.
HEY! IT COPIED ME...
OH, WE'RE NOT THAT GREAT.
...AND SHE CLASHED WITH THE CANARIES, WHO ARE TRYING TO KEEP THE DEMON IN CHECK!
IT TOOK ADVANTAGE OF MARCILLE'S WEAKNESS...
THAT'S ABOUT THE SIZE OF IT.
HE'S GOOD AT SUMMA-RIZING TOO.
...AND IT'S PLOTTING TO REACH THE SURFACE AND EAT HUMAN DESIRES!
THE WINGED LION IS ACTUALLY A DEMON...
HUH?
HM. IN OTHER WORDS...
OHH!?
THERE'S JUST ONE WAY OUT OF THIS!!
NAMELY—
NAMELY!?
LET'S TRADE 'EM OUT.
IT'S SHARPER THAN THE REAL ONE.
THAT IS TOUGH.
AND YOUR USUAL BEAT-IT-AND-EAT-IT STRATEGY WON'T WORK.
GOOD IDEAS ARE HARD TO COME BY.
I'M NOT A FAN OF CEPHALO-PODS.
ENERGY
VITAMIN C
PROTEIN
VITAMIN D
FAT
VITAMIN A
CARBS
IRON
CALCIUM
THEN USE THE WINGED LION'S POWER TO ESCAPE TO THE SURFACE. PROBLEM SOLVED!!
LAIOS, YOU BECOME THE DUN-GEON'S LORD!!


I'VE NEVER SEEN MOST OF THOSE.
WHAT ARE THOSE MONSTERS CALLED?
PIGS WITH WINGS...
...AND RABBITS WITH ANTLERS?
MARCILLE'S ARMY
I MEAN, IF A PIG SPROUTS WINGS...
...OR A RABBIT HAS ANTLERS, SO WHAT?
HUH!?
I DON'T THINK THEY CAN BE REAL "MONSTERS."
NO?
I DON'T KNOW.
MAYBE MARCILLE CAME UP WITH THEM?
AREN'T THOSE JACKALOPES?
WINGED PIGS AND HORNED RABBITS AREN'T SCARY AT ALL.
I REALLY DOUBT THEY CAN BE "MONSTERS."
DUNGEON RABBITS ARE A DIFFERENT STORY
...THOSE FEARFUL IMAGININGS AND MONSTERS MUST BE CLOSELY RELATED.
I FEEL LIKE WHEN PEOPLE THINK..
"IT WOULD BE SCARY IF THAT EXISTED."


I ASSUMED THEY PROBABLY JUST WEREN'T REAL...
...BUT I GUESS THEY LIVE IN THE DUNGEON.
SOMETIMES THEY'RE SPOTTED UP TOP, AND PEOPLE MAKE A FUSS...
. BUT NOBODY'S ACTUALLY FOUND ONE.
HM?
JACKA-LOPES!
RABBITS WITH HORNS.
SO IT'S LIKE A HIPPO-GRIFF?
YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THEM? HOW ODD.
HUH?
HUH?
IT'S PART OF ANOTHER SAYING THAT MEANS "IMPOSSI-BLE."
SAME FOR THAT FLYING PIG OVER THERE...
THERE'S A SAYING THAT GOES...
..."FURRED TORTOISE, HORNED RABBIT."
IT MEANS A THING IS IMPOSSIBLE OR DOESN'T EXIST.
WELL, UM, THEY ARE—
OH!
WHEN PIGS FLY!!
ANYWAY! WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT MARCILLE, FAST!
.....
REEEALLY?
.. THERE WAS NO WAY MARCI..E COULD KNOW ABOUT A MONSTER YOU DIDN'T.
I BET YOU FIGURED ...
DOKI (BOOM)
N-NO! THAT'S NOT—

# 12

# DELICIOUS IN DUNGEON

## RYOKO KUI

**Translation: Taylor Engel** **Lettering: Abigail Blackman**

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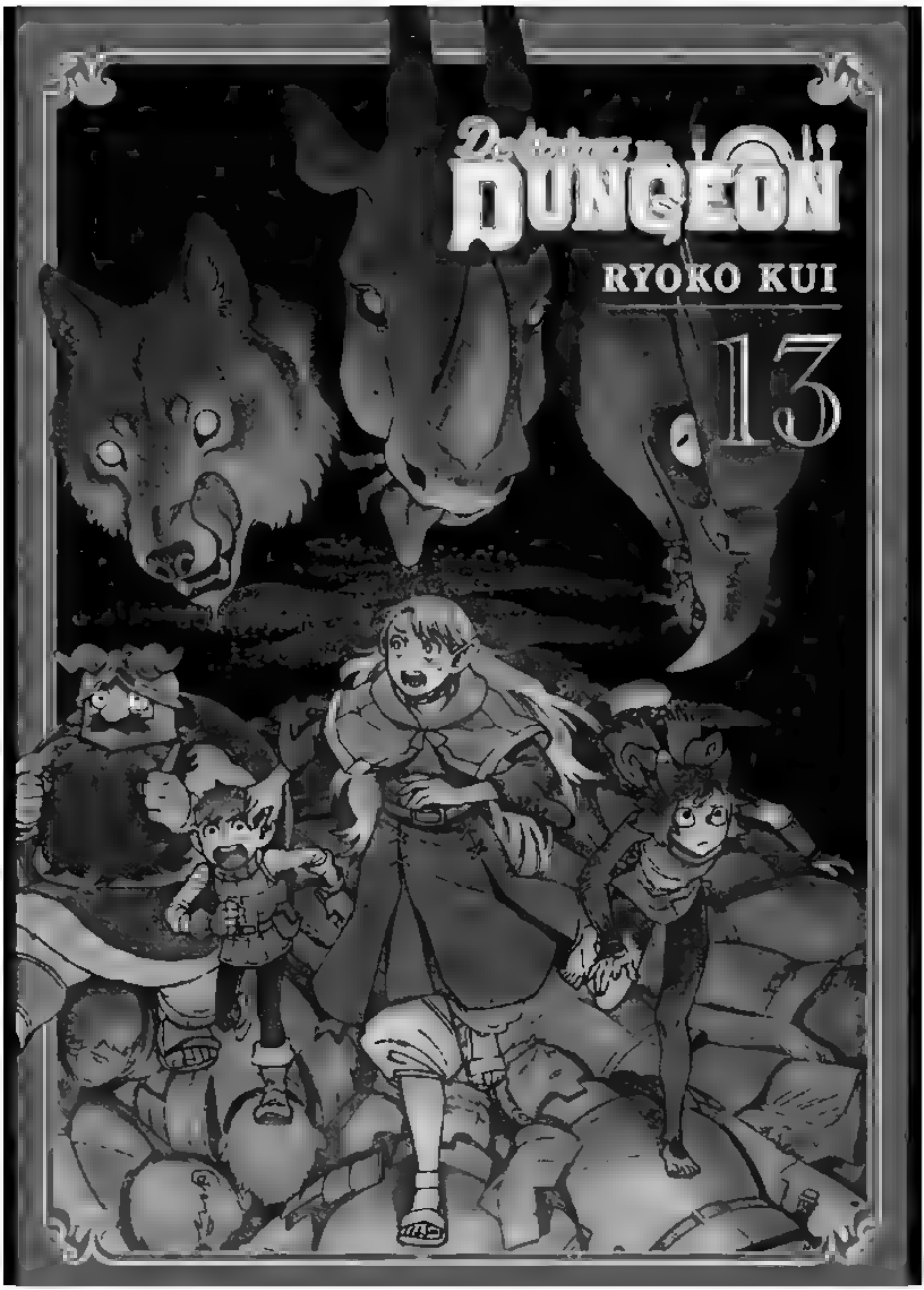
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Delicious in
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13


Delicious in
DUNGEON
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13

# Delicious in Dungeon



Ryoko Kui

13

# Delicious in Dungeon

13

*Contents*

*Chapter 86* **WINGED LION -1-** ——— 005
*Chapter 87* **WINGED LION -2-** ——— 037
*Chapter 88* **WINGED LION -3-** ——— 059
*Chapter 89* **WINGED LION -4-** ——— 089
*Chapter 90* **WINGED LION -5-** ——— 101
*Chapter 91* **WINGED LION -6-** ——— 137
*Bonus* **MISCELLANEOUS MONSTER TALES -13-** — 174



# 86. Winged Lion -1-




GOOOO
RUMBLE
BAM
BOK
CRUNCH
BOK
SNAP
CRUNCH
SQUISH
CRUNCH
SQUAGGAGA
CHOOOM
AAAH!!
AAGH!
THEY'LL KILL US.
A— ARE YOU SURE?
SNIFF
SNIFF
MARCILLE, STOP THE MONSTERS OUTSIDE RIGHT THIS MINUTE.
OH. RIGHT. NOW ISN'T THE TIME FOR THIS.


THE DUNGEON'S POWER IS TOO MUCH FOR HUMANS TO HANDLE.
YOU NEED TO STEP DOWN AS ITS LORD.
WE'LL ALL WORK HARD TO MAKE SURE THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN.
SNIFF!
NAMARI AND SHURO WILL HELP TOO.
STOP...
KOF!...
CAN YOU MAKE THE MONSTERS RETREAT?
IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE COMPLETE CONTROL OVER THEM...
...BUT I'LL TRY.
SNIFF!
STOP!!
WAH!
WAH!
WAH!


GOOD
(THOOOM)
AAAGH!!
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE FIGHTING EVEN HARDER!!
WHY ...?
THEY WON'T STOP!
HUH?
WHA—
MAR-CILLE?
I'M ONLY GRANTING HER WISH.
I DID THINK YOU WERE BEING TOO QUIET...
THIS IS YOUR DOING, ISN'T IT, WINGED LION?
THEN WHY WON'T THE MONSTERS STOP!?
WELL...


"IF I SURRENDER NOW, THEY MAY PUNISH ME."
THE MONSTERS ARE TRYING TO PROTECT YOU IN RESPONSE TO THAT TRACE OF FEAR.
...BECAUSE YOU'RE AFRAID.
WHA...?
GU (GRIP)
BEING SCARED IS COMPLETELY NATURAL.
ARE YOU SAYING SHE HAS TO SUPPRESS HER SUBCONSCIOUS DESIRES TOO?
IN OTHER WORDS ...


I'LL BE THE ONE...
...TO END THIS.
MARCILLE? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
IT'S FINE— JUST DON'T MOVE.
LAIOS...
POINT THAT SWORD THIS WAY.
THIS WAS MY MISTAKE.
I'LL FIX IT.
W-WAIT, MARCILLE.
THERE HAS TO BE SOME OTHER WAY.
WE DON'T HAVE TIME, DO WE?
WE DIDN'T COME ALL THIS WAY JUST TO—
MAR-CILLE !!
すっ


ぬりょ
MUERTO GORUNCHO
WAAI!!


WHAT ABOUT THE MONSTERS!?
CONSTANTLY HAVING YOUR WISHES GRANTED SETS YOU UP FOR DISASTER!!
NOW I KNOW WHY SISSEL HAD IT SEALED LIKE THAT!!
?
?
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE SETTLED DOWN.

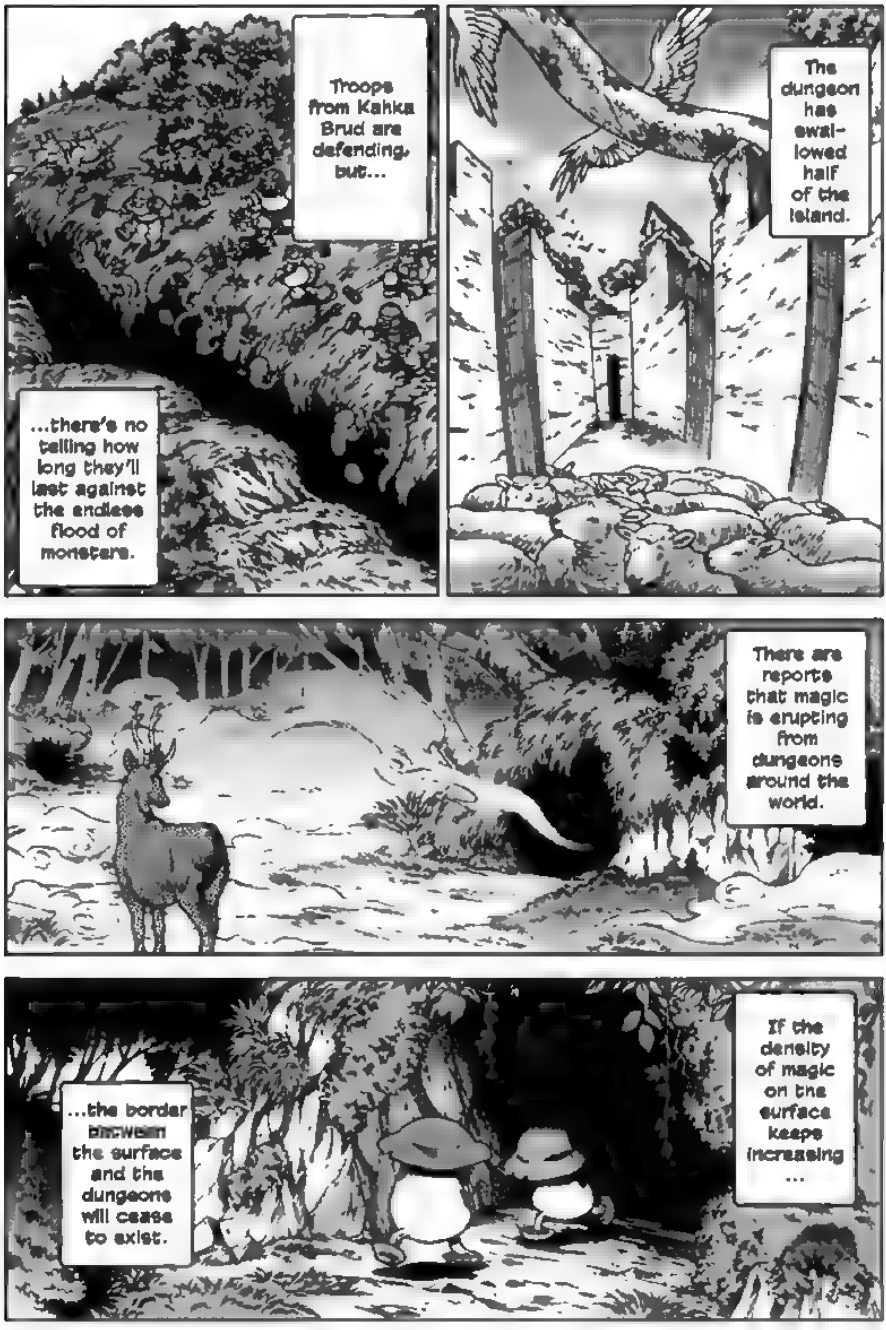

SO YOU SEALED THE WINGED LION?
IT FEELS MORE LIKE I CURBED MY OWN DESIRES.
NOW I CAN THINK A LITTLE.
HFF... HAAH...
AHHH... IT'S FINALLY QUIET.
I KILLED PEOPLE AND SUMMONED MONSTERS OF MY OWN FREE WILL.
I WISH I COULD SAY I WAS BEING CON-TROLLED ...
...BUT I KNEW WHAT I WAS DOING THE WHOLE TIME.
ON THAT NOTE...
...I NEED YOU TO LISTEN CALMLY...
I'VE COME TO THE OPINION ...
ALL OF MY DESIRES KEPT GETTING STRONGER ...
...BUT MY DESIRE NOT TO DO THIS VANISHED...
...AND I DON'T THINK IT'S BACK YET.


...THAT BECOMING THE LORD OF THE DUNGEON ...
...IS A REALLY BAD IDEA!!
WE KNOW THAT!
GO APOL-OGIZE RIGHT THIS MINUTE!
P-PLUS...
...IS IT REALLY OKAY TO STEP DOWN NOW!?
.....
ASIDE FROM DYING.
...DO ANY OF YOU KNOW HOW TO STOP BEING THE LORD OF THE DUNGEON?
LOOK, WE'LL GO WITH YOU! JUST RESIGN AS THE LORD! NOW!!
Y-YES, BUT...


WHAT IF IT CRUMBLES?
AND LOSING CONTROL OF THE MONSTERS WOULD BE BAD, WOULDN'T IT?
THE WHOLE THING SEEMS LIKE IT'S GOTTEN MORE FRAGILE.
THERE ARE CRACKS IN IT...
I CHANGED THE SHAPE OF THE DUNGEON... REMEMBER?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
RIGHT...
YEAH, BAD PLAN.
CAN YOU CHANGE IT BACK?
ONLY IF WE RELEASE THE SEAL, AND IF WE DO, I'LL...
IS THAT OKAY!? THEY WON'T JUST KILL US!?
IT SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT.
I'LL BE CAREFUL.
ドキ
(DOKI (BADUMP))
HUH!?
THINKING WON'T GET US ANYWHERE. LET'S TRY ASKING THE PEOPLE OUTSIDE.

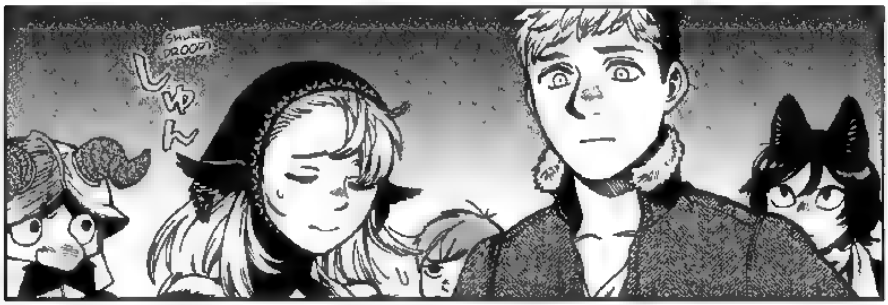

EXCUSE ME!!
DOES ANYONE KNOW HOW TO STOP BEING THE LORD OF THE DUNGEON!?
IS HE FOR REAL!?
LAIOS...
'COURSE HE DID!
IT SOUNDS LIKE HE MANAGED TO TALK HER AROUND.
YES, BUT NONE OF US KNOW HOW TO DO IT.
Has she said she wants to stop being the Dungeon Lord?
...O
FUWA (FLOAT)

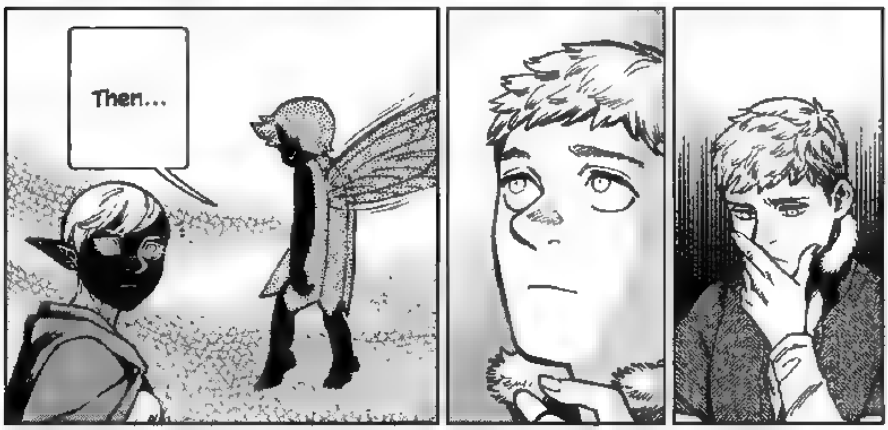

You fool!!
Do you really think it's going to be that easy!?
Look at what you've done!
You broke the demon's seal!
Altered the dungeon's shape!
Incited the monsters!
And put a big hole in the surface!
I'm working on it!
Is that resurrectable?
And another one in the captain's head.
There are ways to stop being the lord.
Either die, or leave the dungeon.
Neither's an option this time, though.
Let me tell you what's happening on the surface.


Troops from Kahka Brud are defending, but...
...there's no telling how long they'll last against the endless flood of monsters.
The dungeon has swallowed half of the island.
There are reports that magic is erupting from dungeons around the world.
If the density of magic on the surface keeps increasing ...
...the border between the surface and the dungeons will cease to exist.


Moment by moment, the world is falling into the demon's hands.
Because of what you people did, the world is in dire straits.
AT ANY RATE.
ACTUALLY, MUSTERING TROOPS AND EVACUATING CITIZENS COME FIRST.
TO STOP IT, THE FIRST THINGS WE NEED TO DO...
...ARE CLOSE THE HOLE, CAST A BARRIER...
...AND GET A NEW LORD.


NO ONE WILL FORGIVE YOU, NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO NOW!


SHUN (DOOP)
しゅん


Then...


...WHAT HAPPENS IF I DEFEAT THE DEMON?
HE'S AT IT AGAIN.
.....
WHAT?
DEMONS AREN'T LIVING CREATURES. WHAT YOU'RE SUGGESTING ISN'T POSSIBLE.
DON'T BE AN IDIOT.
I THINK I CAN RETURN IT TO SOMETHING THAT'S MORE LIKE AIR OR WATER, THOUGH.
OR...IS IT NOT OKAY TO DO THAT?
IT WOULD BE REALLY BAD IF THE WORLD LOST ALL ITS MAGIC, HUH.


THE DEMON IS A CREATURE THAT GROWS...
...BY FEEDING ON HUMAN DESIRES.
ORDINARILY YOU'D BE RIGHT...
...BUT I'VE TALKED WITH HIM, AND IT MADE ME THINK.
HIS HUNGER HAS MADE HIM TOO SIMILAR TO US.
HE'S LEARNED WHAT MAKES HUMANS HAPPY AND WHAT THEY WON'T LIKE...
...BUT HE'S ALSO NO LONGER ABLE TO FREE HIMSELF FROM THE LIMITS OF HUMAN IMAGINATION.


MEALS ARE ALSO THE TIME WHEN LIVING CREATURES ARE MOST VULNERABLE.
HE CAN'T RESIST DOING SOMETHING THAT HE WOULDN'T ORDINARILY NEED TO DO AT ALL.
THAT MEANS THE DEMON ISN'T INVINCIBLE NOW!
IF YOU'LL LET ME HANDLE THIS...
...I'LL DEFEAT THE WINGED LION.
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
AH.
MUKURI (RISE)
ENOUGH! SHUT THAT GUY UP!
WH—
WHO'D BELIEVE THAT!?


MITH—
FU OFF?
UUGH
YOU SHUT UP, FLAMELA.
IF SHE HADN'T BECOME HIS LORD, THE WINGED LION WOULD HAVE CHOSEN SOMEONE ELSE.
THAT'S THE SORT OF BEING HE IS.
YES, I DO.
OR RATHER, IF I DON'T, MANKIND WILL BE DESTROYED EITHER WAY.
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN DEFEAT THE DEMON?
AT THIS POINT, I'M SURE IT WON'T BE ALL THAT HARD.
THOSE WHO EAT TOO MUCH ARE DESTINED FOR DESTRUCTION.
THE WORLD RESTS ON A BALANCE OF PREDATORS AND PREY.


DEFEAT THE DEMON...!
OH!
CHORO (FLIT)
チョロ
YOU'VE JUST REVIVED. YOU NEED TO REST...
FURA (TOTTER)
ふらっ
CAPTAIN.
DO (RMBL)
ドドドド
THE MON-STERS! THEY'RE —
LOOK AT THAT!






HEH HEH HEH.
HOW INTRIGU-ING.
もぞ
MOZO (SQUIRM)
"DEFEAT-ING ME."
SO THAT'S YOUR DESIRE.
MOGI (PULL)
もぎゅっ
NU (LOOM)


YOU KNOW WHAT YOU MUST DO TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN, DON'T YOU?
WAH
AAH!


HANG ON A SECOND!!
AAH!!!
IF I MANAGE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE DEMON...
...I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK!!
NAME IT.
FOOD!
A MEAL ...!!


I WANT TO TREAT EVERYONE HERE TO A MEAL!!!
THAT GUY...
DON'T TELL ME...
A MEAL?
Right!! Promise me we'll all eat together !!
FINE!


SO YOU KILL THAT DEMON, NO MATTER WHAT.
Yeah!!
REALLY!? NO MATTER WHAT!?
I promise.
I SWEAR WE'LL EAT HIM RIGHT BACK!!
"WE"?


BIG
CIGAR
GOOGLIN
SMALLOND

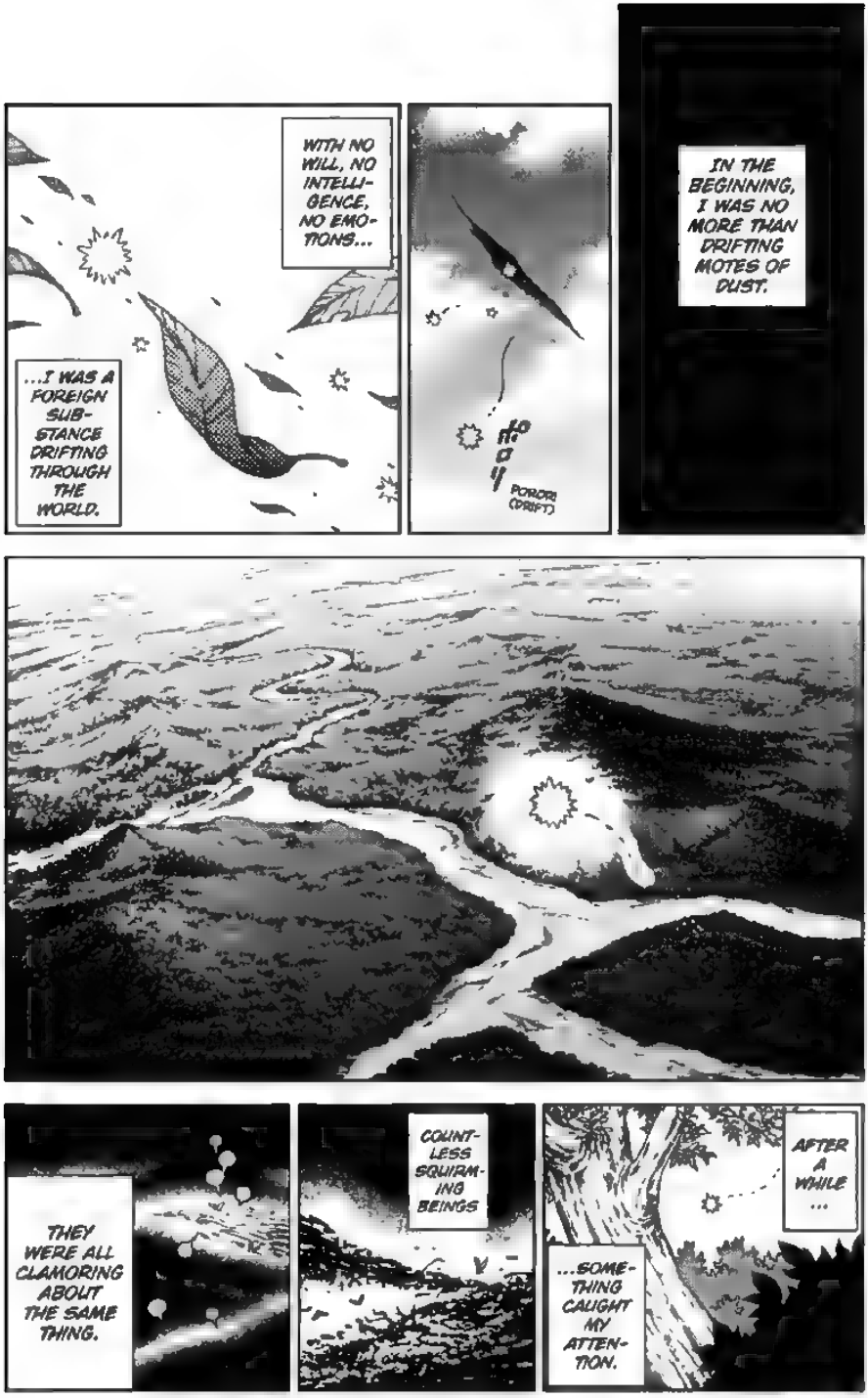

URP.
.....
.....
.....
SO THIS IS WHAT THE END OF THE WORLD FEELS LIKE.
UH, IT ATE THEM.

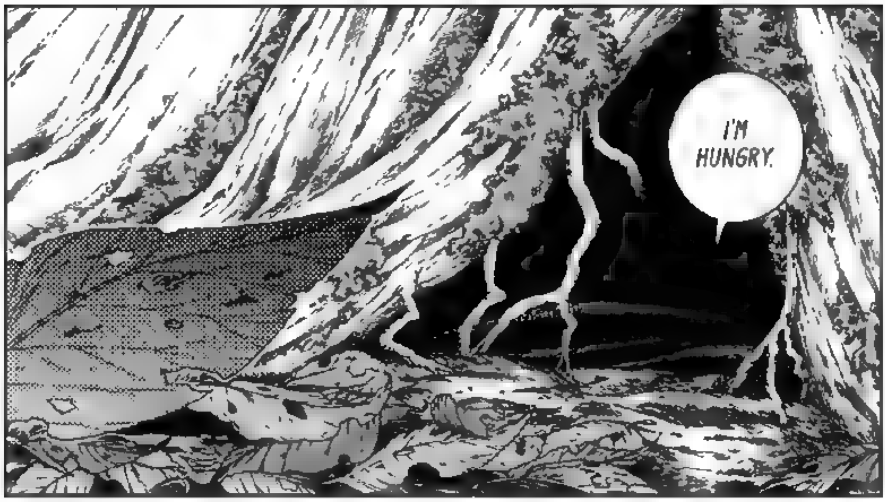




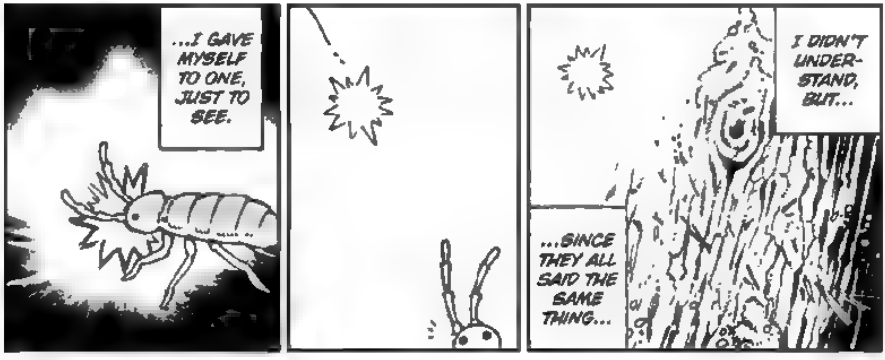
## 87. Winged Lion -2-




IN THE BEGINNING, I WAS NO MORE THAN DRIFTING MOTES OF DUST.
WITH NO WILL, NO INTELLIGENCE, NO EMOTIONS...
...I WAS A FOREIGN SUBSTANCE DRIFTING THROUGH THE WORLD.
ho
ri
ri
POROR (DRIFT)
THEY WERE ALL CLAMORING ABOUT THE SAME THING.
COUNTLESS SQUIRMING BEINGS
AFTER A WHILE ...
...SOMETHING CAUGHT MY ATTENTION.

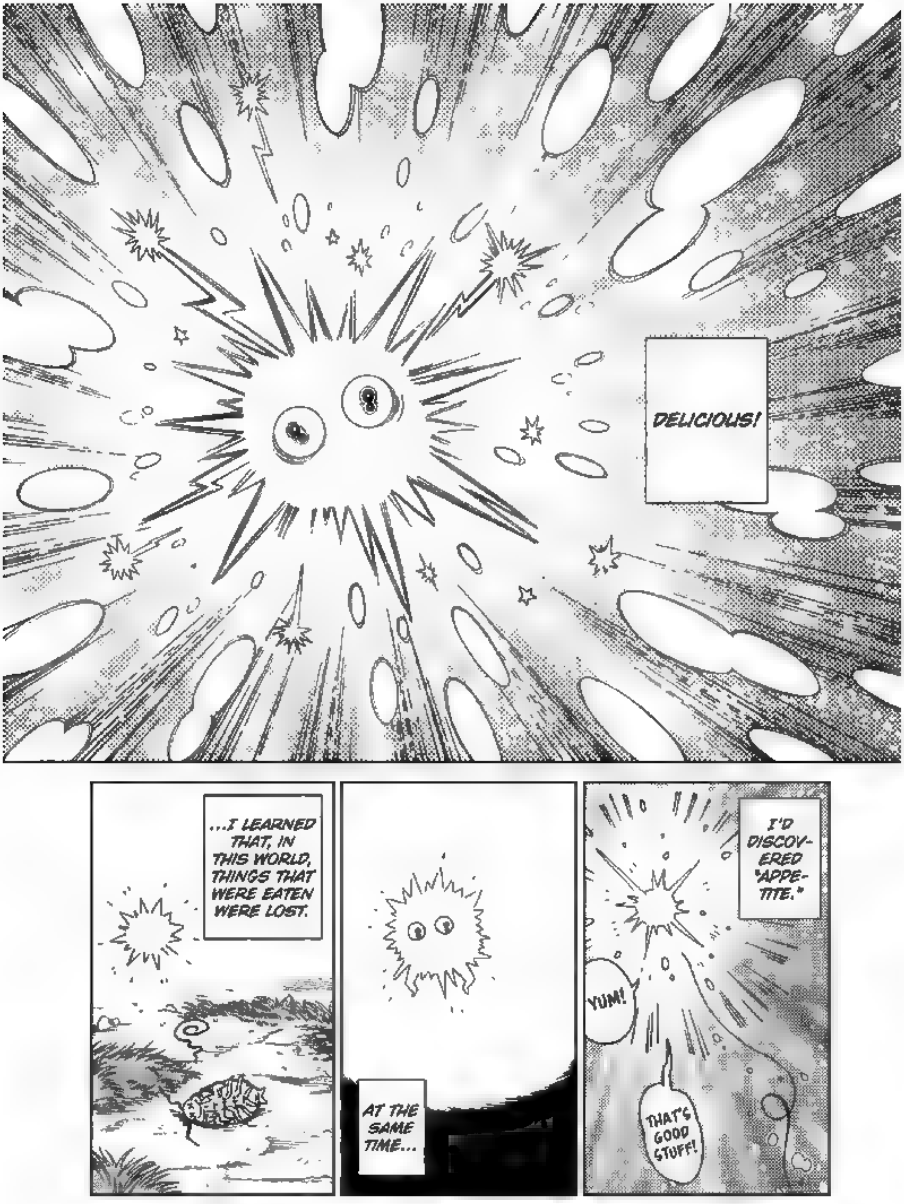

I'M HUNGRY.

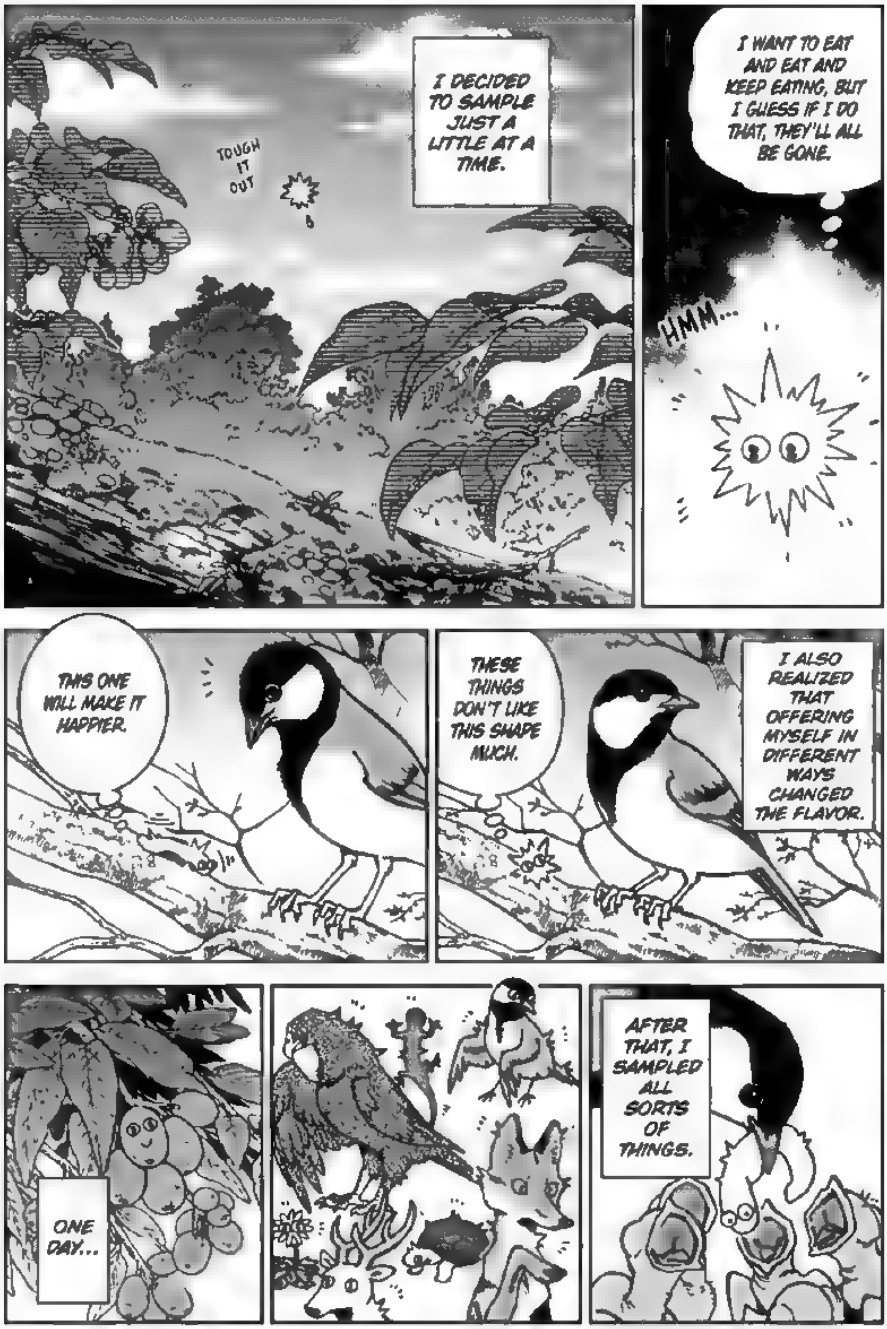

I'M FAMISHED.
FOOD, I WANT FOOD.
GOT ANYTHING TO EAT?
I WANT TO FILL MY BELLY


...I GAVE MYSELF TO ONE, JUST TO SEE.
I DIDN'T UNDER-STAND, BUT...
...SINCE THEY ALL SAID THE SAME THING...


IT SETTLED DOWN.
YUM!
HOWEVER, AFTER A LITTLE WHILE, IT STARTED UP AGAIN.
I'M STARV-ING!
THIS WAS ENTERTAIN-ING, SO I FED THEM LOTS OF ME.
...THE FRAGMENT OF ME THAT PASSED THROUGH ITS BODY BECAME PART OF THE WORLD.
CURI-OUSLY...


I'M HUNGRY
THIS CYCLE REPEATED ENDLESSLY.
I'M HUNGRY
THE QUESTION PREOCCUPIED ME MORE AND MORE...
...SO I TRIED IT MYSELF.
WHAT WAS THE POINT?
IT TASTED —
I WANT FOOD
HOMF!
I WANT FOOD


DELICIOUS!
...I LEARNED THAT, IN THIS WORLD, THINGS THAT WERE EATEN WERE LOST.
AT THE SAME TIME...
I'D DISCOVERED "APPETITE."
YUM!
THAT'S GOOD STUFF!


I DECIDED TO SAMPLE JUST A LITTLE AT A TIME.
TOUGH IT OUT
I WANT TO EAT AND EAT AND KEEP EATING, BUT I GUESS IF I DO THAT, THEY'LL ALL BE GONE.
HMM...
THIS ONE WILL MAKE IT HAPPIER.
THESE THINGS DON'T LIKE THIS SHAPE MUCH.
I ALSO REALIZED THAT OFFERING MYSELF IN DIFFERENT WAYS CHANGED THE FLAVOR.
ONE DAY...
AFTER THAT, I SAMPLED ALL SORTS OF THINGS.


...I ENCOUNTERED HUMANS.
AS I GAVE THEM MORE AND MORE, THEIR FLAVORS BECAME MORE NOVEL...
THEIR DESIRES WERE ENTERTAINING.
I WANT TO EAT, BUT I DON'T WANT TO EAT.
I WANT NICER FOOD THAN OTHER PEOPLE HAVE.
...AND MORE COMPLEX.
I WANT TO COOK MY FOOD.
I WANT A STABLE WATER SOURCE.
I WANT TO EAT STUFF THAT TASTES BETTER.


I CHANGED MY FORM, LEARNED THEIR LANGUAGES...
...AND GAVE THEM WHAT THEY DESIRED.
I DID EVERYTHING I COULD THINK OF.
...THERE WAS ONE DESIRE I JUST COULDN'T GRANT.
IT REALLY IS, ISN'T IT!
YUM.
BUT...
OOH, THIS IS GOOD.
YEAH...
I WISH THIS HAPPINESS WOULD LAST FOREVER.

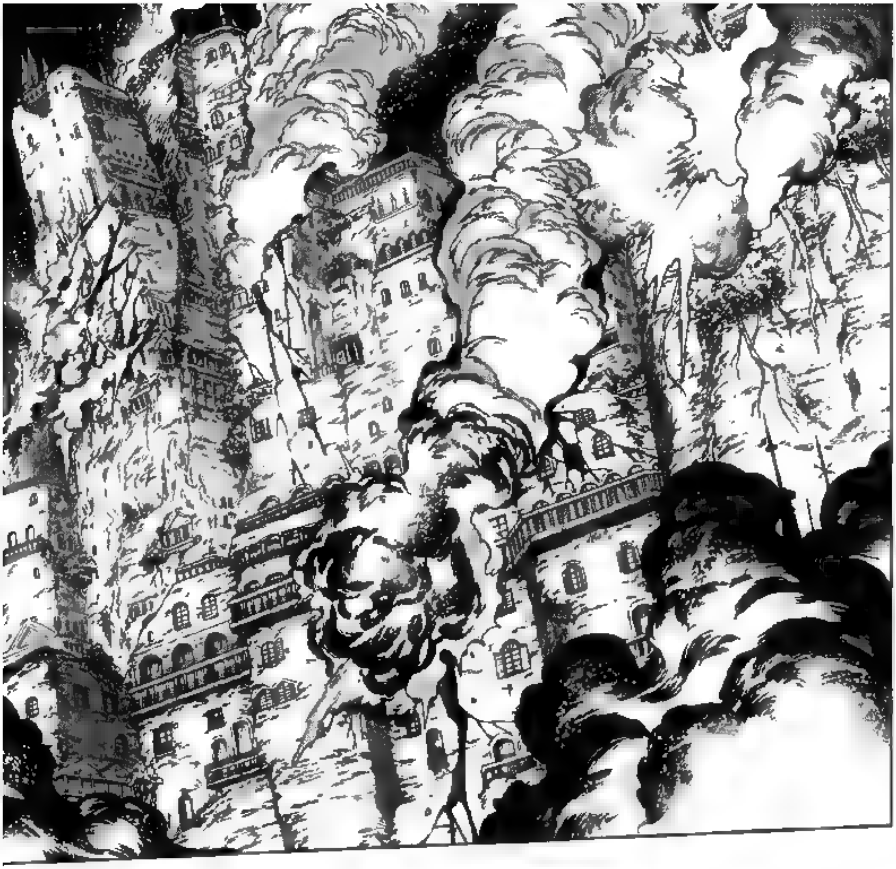

I GET THAT.
...I'D BE ABLE TO SAVOR THEM FOREVER TOO, AND YET...
IF I COULD GIVE THEM ETERNAL HAPPINESS...
DESIRES ARE TASTY, BUT ONCE I EAT THEM, THEY'RE GONE
...THE WORK OF A GOD!
BUT THERE'S ALWAYS TREASURE LYING NEAR THEM. THIS MUST BE...
MORE SOULLESS SHELLS.

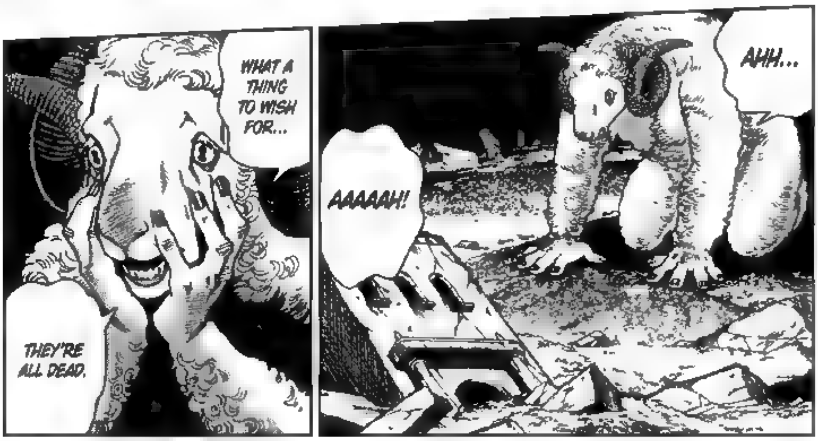

HUMAN MEAT WASN'T REALLY MY THING...
...BUT THAT WAS HOW THEY WANTED ME TO ACT, SO I DID.
むんず!!
MUNZU (GRAB)
I BEG YOUR PARDON, O DIVINE ONE. COULD YOU, UM...
ヒソ MISO
ヒソ MISO
IF YOU WANT GOLD, BRING ME MORE SACRI-FICES!
WAH HA HA HA HA!


AT SOME POINT, THEY SHUT ME INTO THIS CRAMPED PLACE THEY CALLED A "DUNGEON."
I COULDN'T MOVE AROUND AS FREELY AS I HAD BEFORE.
SOMETIMES PEOPLE CAME ALONG...
KILL THAT GUY.
NO, KILL HIM.
...BECAME MY LORD, AND GAVE ME DESIRES.
GRANT MY TRIBE IMMORTALITY.
ACTUALLY, MAKE OUR LIFE SPANS A THOUSAND YEARS OR SO.
NO, A LITTLE SHORTER!


HUMAN DESIRES KEPT CHANGING.
I THOUGHT IF I WAS OBEDIENT, I MIGHT GET OUT SOMEDAY.
CLIMBED DOWN A BIT.
EVEN IF IT WAS CRAMPED IN THERE, THE WISHES NEVER STOPPED COMING, SO I WAS SATISFIED.
UM...
BUT...
WHAT SHALL WE DO TODAY?
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO?


I WANT YOU
TO DESTROY
THIS WORLD!

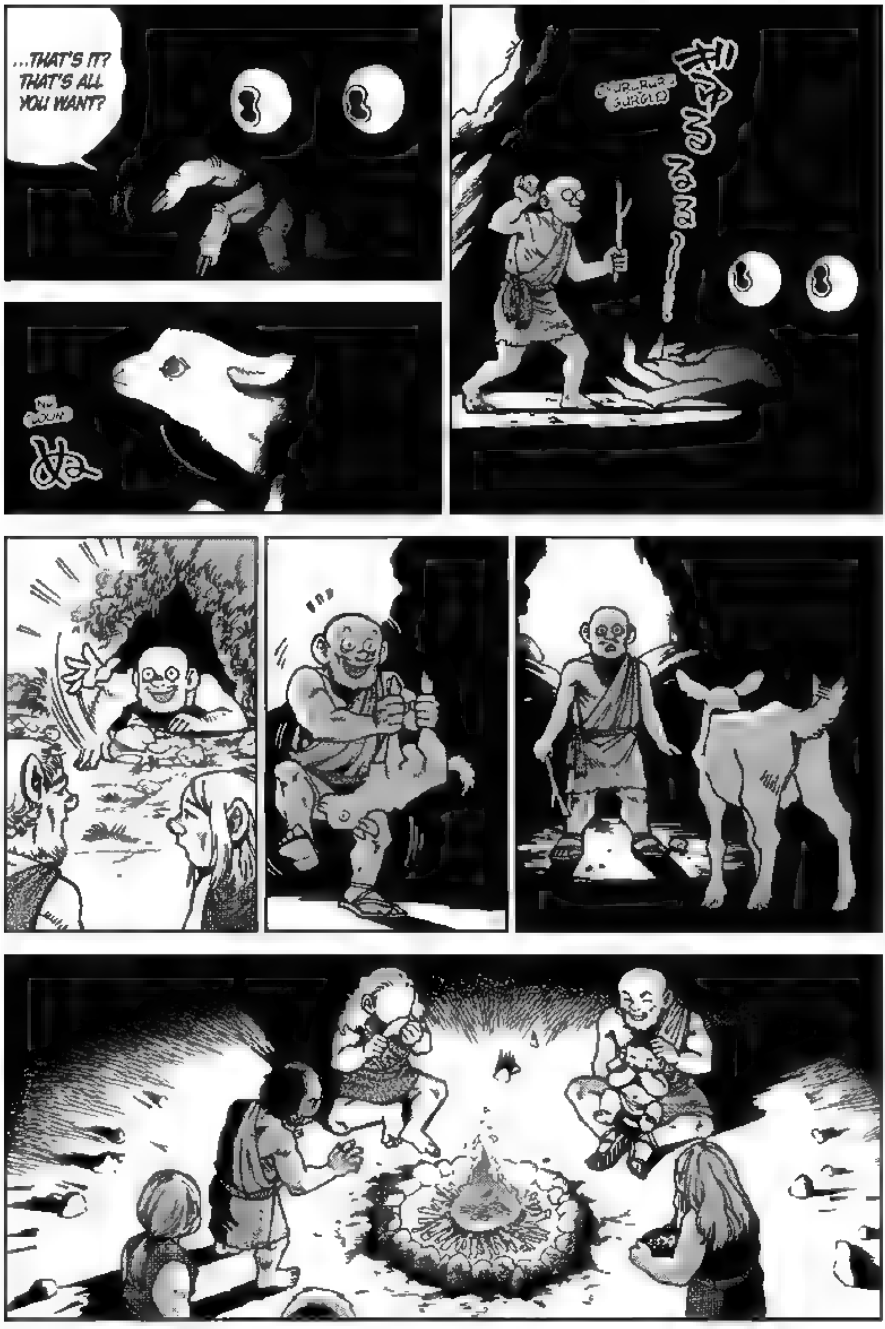



WHAT A THING TO WISH FOR...
THEY'RE ALL DEAD.
AAAAAH!
AHH...


WHERE DID I GO WRONG!?
WEREN'T FULL BELLIES ENOUGH TO MAKE THEM HAPPY!?
I'LL NEVER TASTE THESE AGAIN...

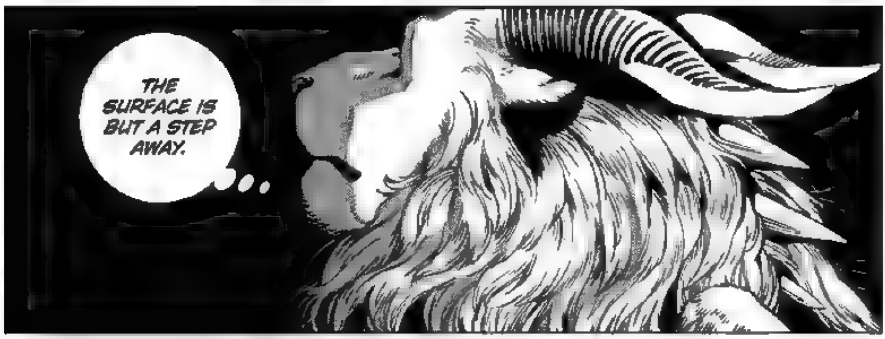

IF THIS IS HOW IT'S GOING TO BE...
...IF I'LL NEVER GET TO EAT THEM AGAIN...
...I WISH I'D EATEN THEM ALL WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT RUNNING OUT.
FAM-ISHED.
FAM-ISHED.
FAM-ISHED.
FAM-ISHED.
I'M FAM-ISHED...


ZUU (READ)
WHAT'RE YOU!?
WANT A PIECE OF ME!?
HOWEVER, THERE HAD APPARENTLY BEEN A FEW SURVIVORS.
HUM...?
I-IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT?
I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU, ANYTHING AT ALL.


...THAT'S IT? THAT'S ALL YOU WANT?
JUNGLE
THE SOUND
ダ


AND THIS TIME, I'LL MAKE IT HAPPEN.
CARE-FULLY. BIT BY BIT.
I'LL CULTI-VATE THEM.
THESE ARE STILL MERELY SEEDS.
A BLISSFUL MEAL THAT LASTS FOR ETERNITY.

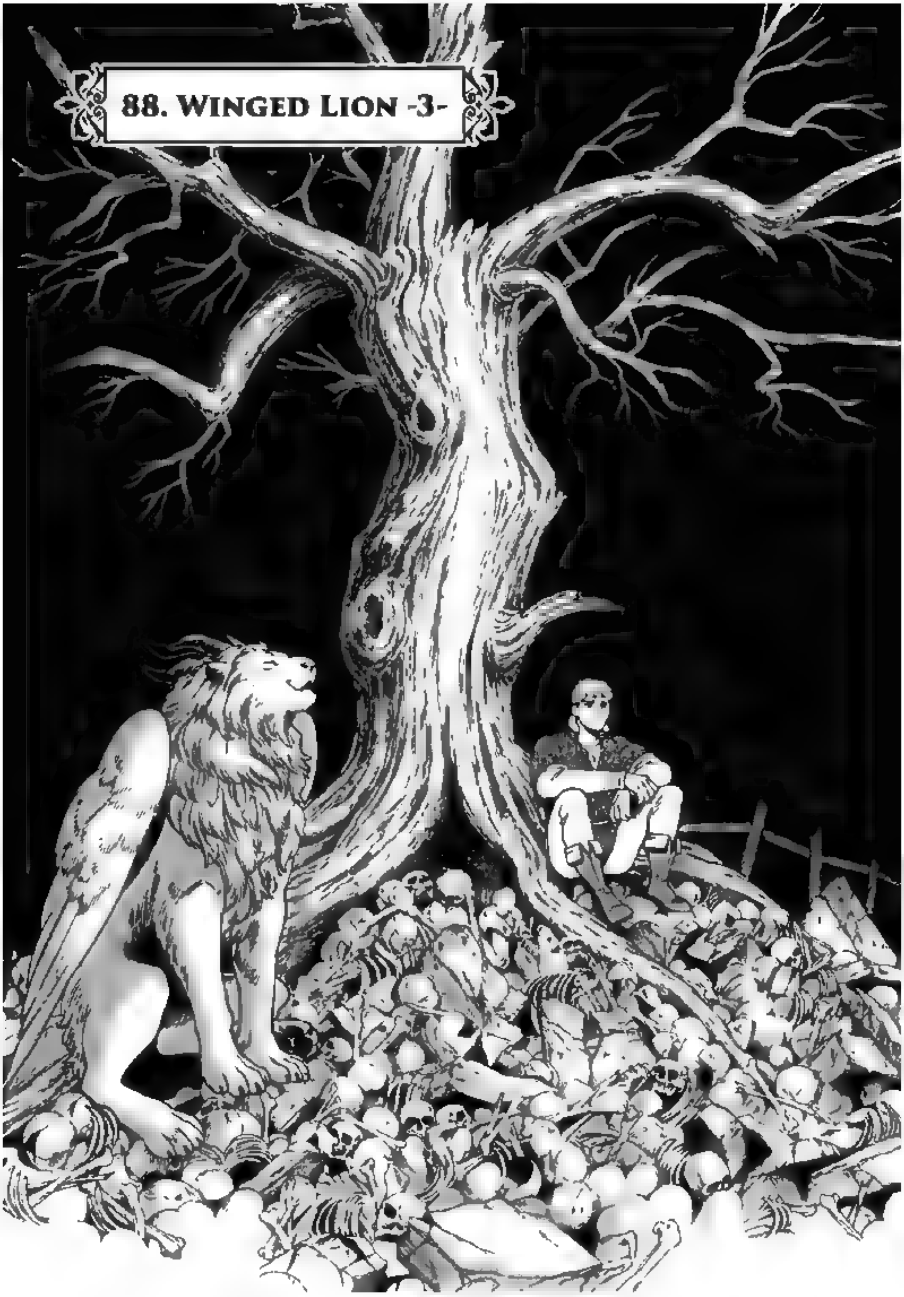



THE SURFACE IS BUT A STEP AWAY.


IN ORDER TO TAKE THAT LAST STEP...
...I WANT YOUR DESIRE.


I'M GLAD YOU'VE COME, LADS.

# 88. Winged Lion -3-





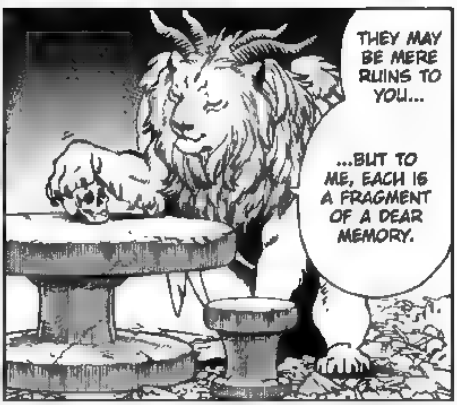

WHAT IS THIS PLACE...?


THIS IS MY TREASURE HOUSE.
I FEEL SICK.
URP!
IT'S LIKE WE'RE SWIMMING THROUGH MAGIC.
IT FEELS... REAL NASTY.
NO WIND, NO HEAT.
...BUT THE AIR IS COMPLETELY WRONG.
THOSE LOOK LIKE DUNGEON BUILDINGS ...


...HUMAN BONES AND RUINS?
CAN'T SAY I SHARE YOUR TASTES.


THEY TASTED THAT GOOD, HUH?


I DON'T KNOW.
I DIDN'T GET TO EAT THEM.


THEY MAY BE MERE RUINS TO YOU...
...BUT TO ME, EACH IS A FRAGMENT OF A DEAR MEMORY.


YES.


...WELL?
HAVE YOU DECIDED WHAT YOU'LL DO?


WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
No.
HOLD IT.
...TO SUM UP WHAT WE'VE LEARNED SO FAR...
LET US TALK THIS OVER.
BE MY GUEST.


IN OTHER WORDS, HIS DRIVE TO GRANT HUMAN DESIRES!
THAT'S HIS WEAK-NESS.
WEAPONS HAVE NO EFFECT ON A DEMON.
IN ORDER TO DEAL WITH THE WINGED LION...
...WE'LL HAVE TO USE HIS NATURE AND POWERS AGAINST HIM.
MM-HMM.
AND...!?
HM...?
...I'LL TAKE MARCILLE'S PLACE AS THE DUNGEON'S LORD!
IN ORDER TO DO THAT, FIRST...


ONCE I DO, THE WINGED LION WILL BE COMPELLED TO MAKE IT HAPPEN!!
I'LL WISH FOR "A PEACEFUL WORLD WHERE THE DEMON DOESN'T MEDDLE WITH HUMANS"!!
THEN, WITHOUT HESITATION!
.....
...AND THAT WILL BE THAT!!
THE DEMON WON'T BE ABLE TO INTERFERE WITH HUMANS ANYMORE...


.....
THAT'S IT.
HUH?
WHAT ELSE?
HEY.
YOU'LL JUST END UP AS ANOTHER DORK IN WEIRD CLOTHES!
AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH ...?
LIKE IT'S REALLY GOING TO BE THAT EASY!?
I THOUGHT THEY WERE PRETTY CUTE!!
ARE THESE THAT BAD!?
THAT WAS A VULNERABILITY. WHEN THE DEMON EXPLOITED IT, SHE ENDED UP IN WEIRD CLOTHES, BUT—
...MARCILLE HAD AN INTENSE DREAM. SHE WANTED TO MAKE THE RACES' LIFE SPANS EQUAL.
ALL ALONG...


THAT
HAAH...
...LISTEN.
I DON'T HAVE MUCH IN THE WAY OF DREAMS.
I ADMIT I WAS DRAWN TO THE IDEA OF A KINGDOM OF MONSTERS, BUT AFTER SEEING THAT, WELL...
THE WINGED LION MISCALCULATED.
WHAT IF HE DRAWS OUT A WISH YOU'RE NOT EVEN AWARE OF?
YOU CAN'T JUST WILL THINGS LIKE THAT AWAY.
WHEN YOU'RE UNDER HIS CONTRO-, YOU CAN'T CURB YOUR DESIRES.
THAT'S NOT GOING TO WORK.
LET'S DO IT! RIGHT NOW!!
HEY, SHE'S STILL BEING CONTROLLED.
I'M STARTING TO FEEL LIKE IT'S GOING TO WORK!!
DITCH THAT OUTFIT RIGHT NOW.
...BUT YOU KNOW, IT MIGHT ACTUALLY WORK.


I WANT ALL OF YOU TO HELP.
IF I'VE ONLY GOT MYSELF TO RELY ON, I'LL PROBABLY LOSE MY MIND IN A HEARTBEAT.
I DON'T THINK IT WILL BE EASY, OF COURSE.
ALL ELSE ASIDE, IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO USE THE DEMON'S POWER.
I'LL DO IT!
LIKE SISSEL DID.
CAN YOU SEAL THE WINGED LION IN A BOOK...
...SO I'LL BE ABLE TO CONTROL MY DESIRES?
FIRST, MARCILLE.
I'LL TRY...
THAT, HUH?
OHH...
THE DUNGEON GOURMET GUIDE.
WHAT IS IT?
COULD YOU USE THIS?
IF WE HAD A BOOK, I COULD TRY, BUT...
UM...


SCOLDINGS OR SERMONS OR CRITICISMS.
JUST HOLD MY ATTENTION SO I DON'T DO ANYTHING WEIRD.
COME UP WITH SOME EFFECTIVE WORDS TO SNAP ME OUT OF IT.
CHIL.
LOOK AT ALL THE MARGIN NOTES!
FOR REFERENCE, DISHES FROM MY HOMETOWN ARE...
"LOCAL" ...?
I WANT YOU TO COOK SOMETHING FOR ME, THE WAY WE MADE LOCAL CUISINE FOR MARCILLE.
SENSHI.
SERMONS...
IF I SEEM EVEN A LITTLE STRANGE ...
DON'T WORRY. IT'S THE EASIEST REQUEST.
DON'T SAY ANYTHING THAT'S TOO MUCH WORK.
AND FINALLY, IZU-TSUMI.
INGREDI-ENTS...


...WE'VE LOST.
IF I LOSE MY MIND...
...KILL ME ON THE SPOT.
I'M COUNTING ON YOU.
BUT WHAT ABOUT THAT PROMISE TO EAT DINNER WITH EVERYBODY ...?
DON'T LET THEM RESURRECT ME EITHER.
THEN TAKE THE OTHERS AND GET OUT OF THE DUNGEON.
ZOO!
SLI (SHIF
.....
OKAY.


HMP
WINGED LION!
MAKE ME THE LORD OF THE DUNGEON!
I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ASK.
COME.




PA-
FLASH!
CRUD. I DIDN'T THINK HE'D SPLIT US UP.
THE PLAN FAILED IMMEDI-ATELY.
WHAT'S WRONG?
AS YOU WISHED, YOU'RE NOW THE DUNGEON'S LORD.
HUH!?
HUH?
WHAT HAP-PENED?
IS THAT REALLY WHAT YOU WANT?
HUH?
GIVE ME A WORLD THAT'S NEVER THREAT-ENED BY DEMONS!
O-OKAY, THEN, LET'S GET RIGHT TO IT!


YOU'VE REALLY GROWN.
JUST A FEW SHORT YEARS AGO, YOU WERE SO UNDEPENDABLE.
I REMEMBER THE DAY YOU FIRST CAME HERE.
YOU'RE SPLENDID NOW.
BOTH YOU AND YOUR SISTER WERE PERENNIALLY SHORT ON MONEY AND FOOD.
BUT ON THE INSIDE, YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT.


RESOLVING THINGS THROUGH SELF-SACRIFICE SEEMS LIKE TOO MUCH WORK.
AS LONG AS YOUR FRIENDS ARE SAFE...
...YOU DON'T CARE IF MULTITUDES GET CAUGHT UP IN THE DUNGEON'S DESTRUCTION.
PEOPLE ARE BORING.
MONSTERS ARE FAR BETTER.
YOU DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO THE WORLD AS MUCH AS YOU SAY YOU DO.
YOU'RE FED UP WITH THE HUMAN WORLD.
IF THAT'S REALLY WHAT YOU WANT, I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU...
...BUT YOU KNOW IT ISN'T.
"A WORLD WITH NO DEMONS"!
NEVER MIND. JUST HURRY UP AND GRANT MY WISH!
I'M THE DUNGEON LORD NOW, AREN'T I!?
EVERY-BODY'S LIKE THAT. YOU'D HAVE TO BE A SAINT NOT TO BE.
HE KNOWS ALL THAT, HUH?


AFTER ALL, MONSTERS KILL THEM.
YOU HATE HUMANS.
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE DRAWN TO MONSTERS.
BEAU-TIFUL, AREN'T THEY?
THEIR FORMS ARE DESIGNED TO THREATEN, FRIGHTEN, AND SLAUGHTER HUMANS.
THEY'RE SO VERY COOL.
I MEAN ...
I WAS A KID BACK THEN...!
OH?
YOU'RE WAY OFF.
SO YOU'VE NEVER FANTASIZED ABOUT A HORDE OF MONSTERS ATTACKING A HUMAN VILLAGE?


SAY YOU BRING PEACE TO THE WORLD. WHAT THEN?
YOU'LL LOSE YOUR JOB.
YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF MONSTERS WILL BE MEANING-LESS.
THE DUNGEON WILL DISAPPEAR. SO WILL ITS MON-STERS.
WHAT WILL YOU HAVE LEFT?
WHAT WILL YOU DO?
LIVE AN EMPTY LIFE IN THAT DULL WORLD?


HADN'T YOU REALIZED?
IT'S FAR TOO SELF-SERVING TO ADVOCATE A LIFE WITHOUT MAGIC FOR OTHERS...
...WHILE YOU TRY TO RESURRECT YOUR SISTER, DON'T YOU THINK?
BESIDES ...
OHH... POOR FALIN.
IF YOU WISH FOR A PEACEFUL WORLD, YOUR SISTER CAN NEVER BE REVIVED.
I KNOW WHAT YOU TRULY DESIRE.
STOP IT...
ENOUGH OF SUCH DARK MATTERS.
LET'S TALK OF SOMETHING A BIT MORE CHEERFUL.


THAT RUMOR IS WHAT FIRST GOT YOU INTERESTED IN THE DUNGEON.
YOU WANT TO BECOME A MONSTER, DON'T YOU?
THERE'S NO WAY!
YOU THOUGHT THE IDEA WAS ABSURD...
...BUT ON SOME LEVEL, YOU HOPED IT MIGHT BE TRUE.
"THEY SAY...
"...NEAR THE DUNGEON, HUMANS SOMETIMES TURN INTO MONSTERS."
I'LL MAKE YOU THE STRONGEST, MOST BEAUTIFUL MONSTER IN THE WORLD.
THEN YOU CAN SOAR THROUGH THE SKIES OF THE SURFACE.
I CAN GRANT THAT WISH FOR YOU.
DON'T BE EMBARRASSED.


IF YOU WISH IT, I'LL GUARANTEE THEIR SAFETY.
I'LL SEE TO IT THAT THEY RETURN TO THEIR FORMER LIVES AND LIVE OUT THEIR NATURAL LIFE SPANS.
I'LL GO BACK TO YOUR COMPANIONS, WEARING YOUR FORM...
...AND TELL THEM PEACE HAS RETURNED.
IN EXCHANGE, GIVE ME YOUR BODY.
I'LL WITNESS HER FINAL MOMENTS AS YOU, ALONGSIDE YOUR SISTER.
MARCILLE (998)
I'LL EVEN MAKE CHILDREN FOR YOU, IF YOU WISH IT.
BIKU
CRUNCH
I WON'T LET MARCILLE END UP ALONE EITHER.
NOW, THEN. WHAT WILL YOU DO?
THAT'S FAR MORE IMPORTANT THAN A SUPERFICIAL DESIRE LIKE "WORLD PEACE," ISN'T IT?


JOIN ME...
...AND LET US RULE THE WORLD.
...IT APPEARS YOU'VE FOUND YOUR ANSWER.

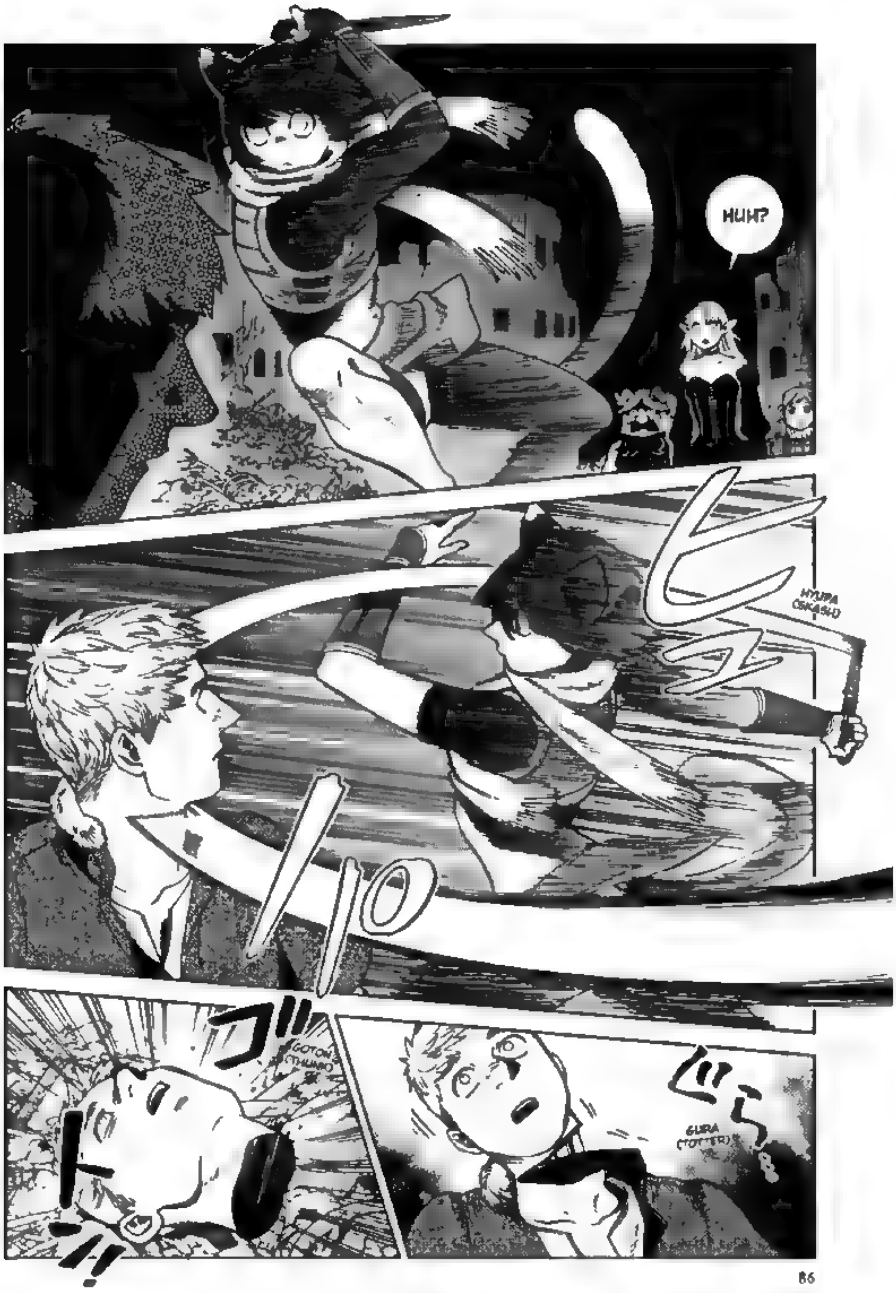

PARTAKE OF MY FLESH.
ゴロリ
GORORI (ROLL)
フィ
FURA (SWAY)
MMF!
MRF!
カリ
KARI (CHOMP)
ゴク
GOK
フゴ!


ゴキュ
GOKYU (GULP)
バリ (RIP)
バリ
モグ (GULP)
ガツ!
GATSU (SCARE)
GATSU
ガツ!!!




HMM...?
THEY AREN'T MOVING.
YEAH...
AH!!
HM?


D-DID HE DO IT!?
NO WAY!
HE RESISTED THE DEMON'S TEMPTATION!?
LAIOOOS!
DA CRASH
HYU
CZWOOSHO
YEAH!


HUH?
HYUPA
CRASH!
GOTOH
(THUMP)
GURA
(TOTTER)


HE WANTED ME TO KILL HIM IF THE PLAN FAILED.
HUH!? WHY!?
HE ALSO SAID NOT TO RESURRECT HIM.
AAH!
NO.
IS THE WINGED LION CONTROLLING YOU!?
YOU TOTAL— IZUTSUMI, WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
LAIOS SAID TO DO THAT.
HM?
WE'VE GOTTA RUN BEFORE THE DUNGEON COLLAPSES.
WAIT, WAIT, YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG—
L...L-LOOK!! LAIOS JUST—
I BET IT DID. HE SEEMED WEIRD.
BUT IT HASN'T FAILED YET!!
WHAT!?
!?

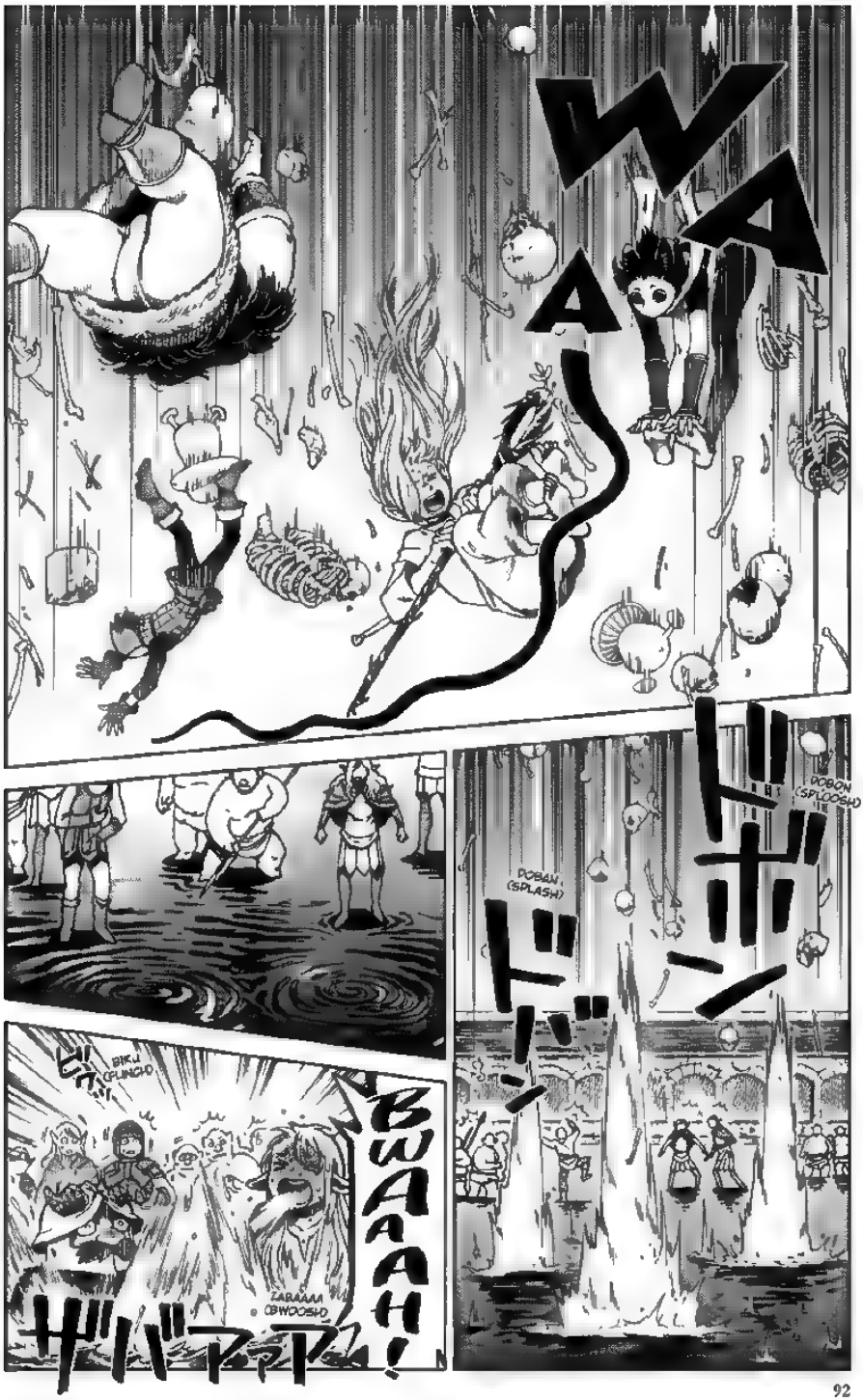


# 89. Winged Lion -4-




EEK!
ZA (SKITTER)
ZA HHI
ZA HHI
ZA HHI
ZA HHI
YEEEEEE
EE—
HEY! WHAT'S WRONG?
IT'S ME. LAIOS.
LIKE WE'D BELIEVE THAT!? YOU JUST GOT BISHIED!!
I SWEAR, THAT GUY.
HAAH...
DOING STUFF NOBODY NEEDS, RIGHT AT THE END.


STOP IT!!
WHERE'S LAIOS!?
I TRULY DON'T WANT TO HURT ANYBODY.
I PROMISE I'LL MAKE YOU HAPPY.
COULD YOU PRETEND YOU DIDN'T SEE THAT?
WHAT ARE YOU D—
WATCH YOUR STEP.
ACTUALLY, LET'S JUST MOVE ON.
AS I SAID, RIGHT NOW I'M—
AAH!
AGH!
AH!
AH!
AAA

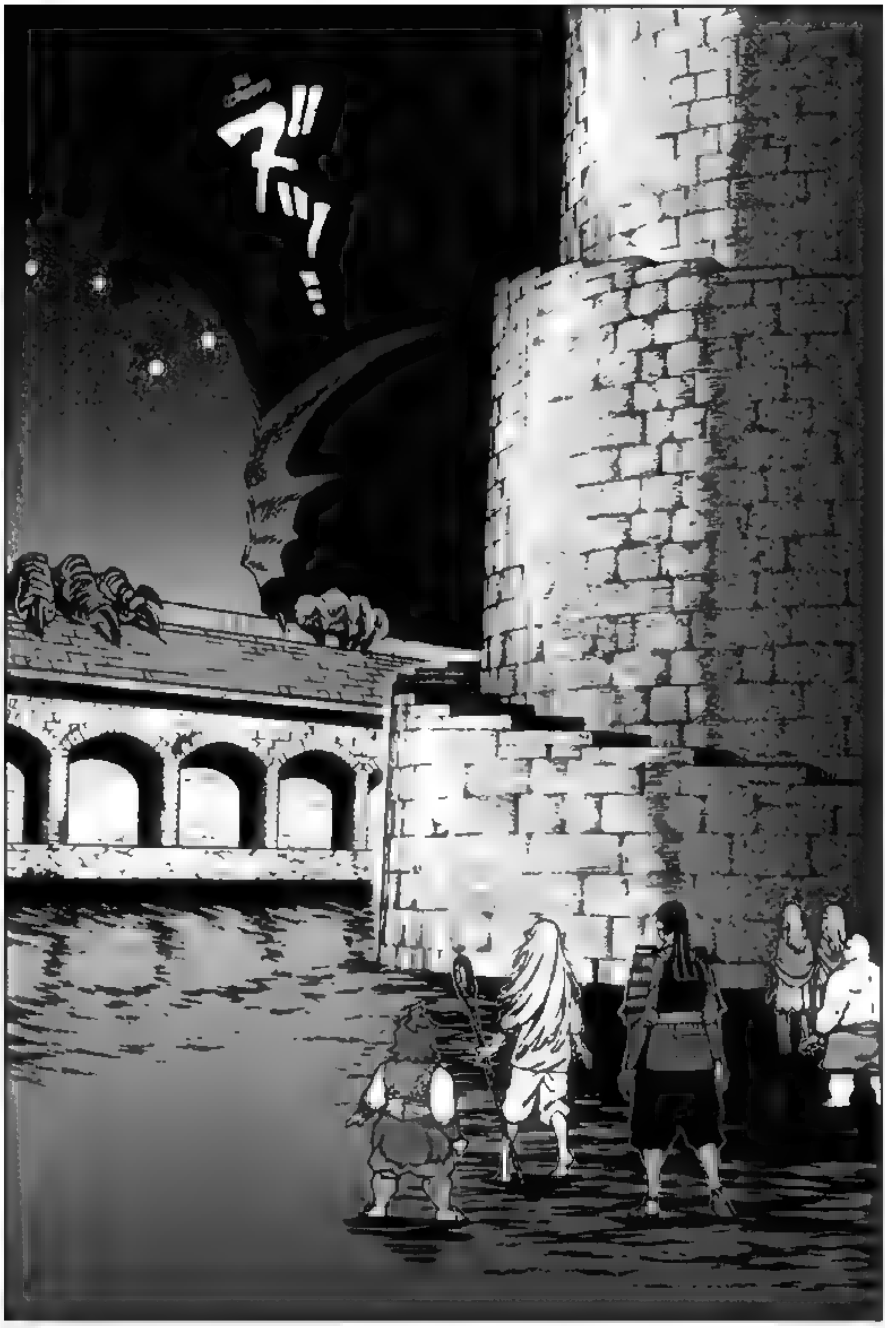

AAAA
ドボン
DOBON (SPLOOSH)
DOBAN (SPLASH)
ビクッ (FLINCH)
ZABAAAA (WHOOSH)
BWAAAH!


YOU OKAY!?
WHAT THE HECK HAP-PENED!?
MAR-CILLE !!
CHIL-CHUCK !!
HE FELL DOWN WITH YOU.
HUH !?
HUH?
WHERE IS LAIOS !?
LAIOS?
.....!?
OH, PHEW.
YOU LOST THOSE WEIRD DUDS.
SA (SE)KO


THE DEMON SWITCHED WITH HIM!!
THAT'S NOT LAIOS.
WAIT, WHAT? ARE YOU STILL CRAZY?
SHE'S SANE.
WAIT ...!
SOME-BODY STOP HIM!!
CATCH THAT GUY!!
HUH !?
NYOKI
NYOKI (SPROUT)
ZABAAA (BLOOSH)
BOKO
BOKO
ST-STOP!
BOKO (BURBLE)
TO (TIP?)
TON
TON
TON
TON (TAP?)
TON
TON


WHOA!!
ゴロ
GORO (ROLL)
ゴロゴロ
GORO
GORO
GORO
ゴロ
JUST LET ME GO TO THE SURFACE.
I'LL GRANT ALL THE WISHES YOU WANT LATER.
HA
YOU'RE A POOR LOSER, MITHRUN.
GIRL
GIRL (CHOKE)
YOU'VE LOST YOUR BET ALREADY !!
HA HA!
FROM HERE ON OUT, HE'LL BE YOUR OPPO-NENT.
I WANTED TO TAKE EVERY HUMAN WITH ME, BUT IF YOU'RE GOING TO GET IN MY WAY...
...THEN THAT'S DIFFER-ENT.
SHUT UP!
YOU SURE ARE COLD.


HUH?
HUH?
HUH?


GRR!!!


CHAPTER 89 THE END





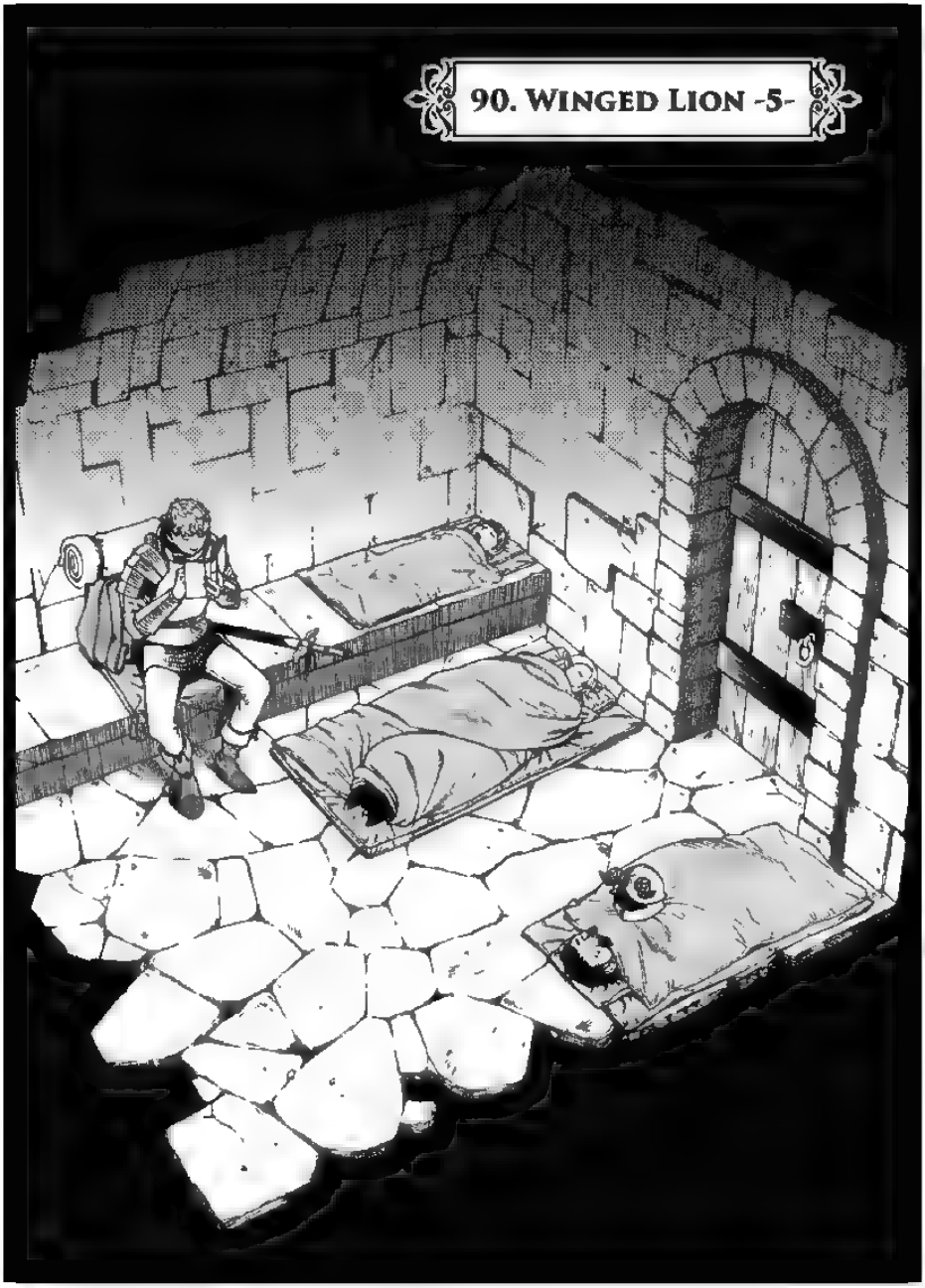
# Chapter 90


AFTER ALL, I'M THE DUNGEON'S LORD NOW.
I HAVE TO GRANT MY OWN WISH.
I'M SORRY, BUT I'M BUSY.
GU (GRAB)
I CAN'T FOCUS ON YOU FOREVER.
MITHRUN ...
OH, MITH-RUN.
DOBON (EXPLOSION)
ドボン
GO WUD
SO!
FROM NOW ON, INSTEAD OF ME—

YOU'LL BE FIGHTING HIM!



# 90. Winged Lion -5-




WHAT'S UP WITH THAT MONSTER...?


WHERE IS HE REALLY?
LAIOS WOULD KNOW, WOULDN'T HE?


THE WINGED LION'S REAL CONFIDENT.
IT'S BAD NEWS SOMEHOW.
CREEPY.
IT LOOKS LIKE A LITTLE KID'S DRAWING.


IT MIGHT TALK ABOUT THAT MONSTER!
THAT'S IT! HIS GOURMET GUIDE.
HOW IS KNOWING WHAT IT TASTES LIKE GONNA HELP?

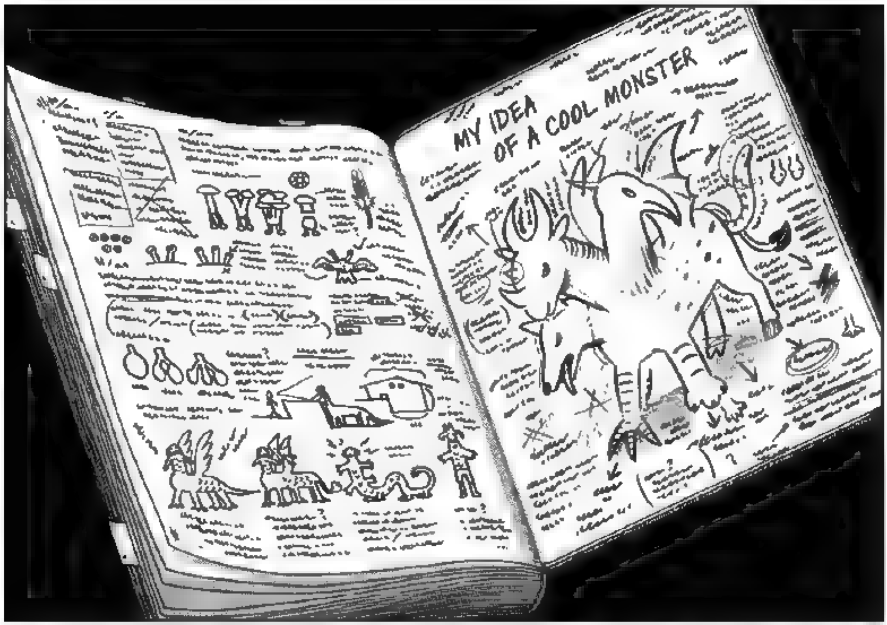

OH!
...HE'D BECOME THE DUNGEON'S LORD TO DEFEAT THE WINGED LION, AND...
HE SAID...

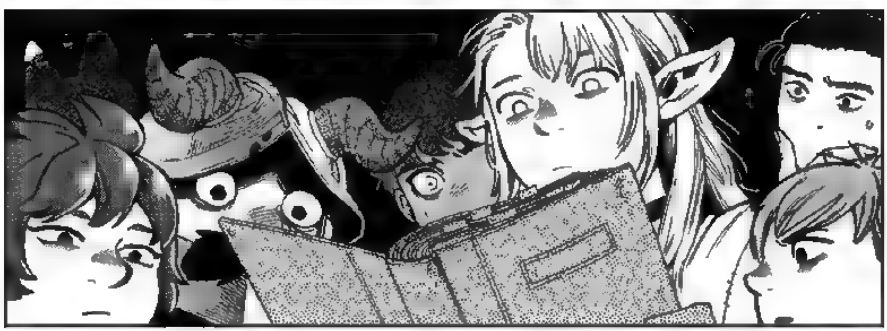

HM...
THERE'S SOME-THING BEHIND THE LAST PAGE?


ZL (CREEP)


NO GOOD, HUH?


NO...
NOTH-ING...
IT ISN'T IN HERE.
PARARARA (FLIP)


MY IDEA
OF A COOL MONSTER




MY IDEA
OF A COOL MONSTER
CAN
THE LEADER
A HERD
HAS PARTS FROM ALL SOR
OF DIFFERENT ANIMALS
CAN TRANSFOR
WOULD THAT
CAUSE A
CONTRADICTION?
THAT SCYLLA
WAS AWESOME.
I REALLY DO WANT
A DOG'S HEAD.
ROUGHLY 300 KPH
STRONG
'D EAT AND
RES
FLIES AT FEROCIOUS SPEED
AN SWIM THROUGH THE OCEAN TOO
ABSOLUTELY NO MAGIC WORKS
ON ITS STURDY BODY
WAY COOL
OMNIVOROUS
CAN GROW FORESTS
BUT NEVER GETS
CONFUSED
HAS
MULTIPLE
HEADS

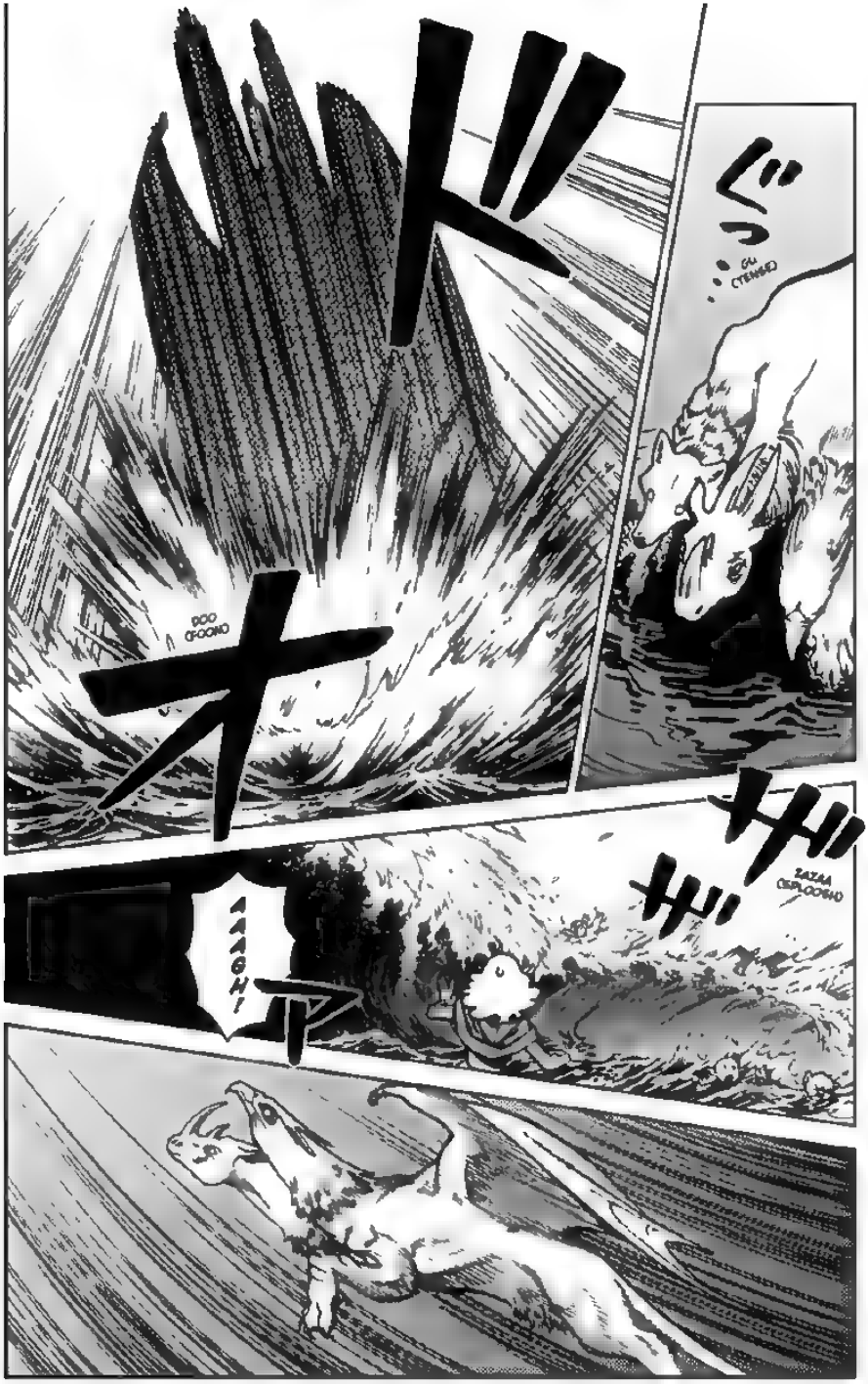

MY IDEA OF A COOL MONSTER
THAT WOULD BE LAIOS.
WHAT? WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?
WHO WROTE THIS?
DOYO (CHATTER)


TH—
THAT BAS-TARD !!!
DIDN'T HE GROW OUT OF THIS STUFF!?


I REALLY CAN'T IMAGINE EVEN LAIOS WOULD...
I MEAN...
WAS THAT HIS WISH!?
DID HE WISH TO BE THE MONSTER HE THOUGHT UP!?
D-
D-
DON'T TELL ME—!!
BA (FLAP)
BABA
.....
GUSSA GWISHO
B-BUT THIS MIGHT BE...
...PART OF HIS PLAN—
...FOR SOME REASON, I'M POSITIVE THAT MONSTER IS LAIOS.
AW
IT'S ODD, BUT...
LIKEWISE.


EVEN IF YOU'RE SELF-TAUGHT OR VAGUE ON THE SPECIFICS!
WE HAVE TO CLOSE THE HOLE OVER THE DUNGEON!
I WANT ANYONE WHO KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT BARRIERS HELPING OUT!
DON'T GET DISTRACTED BY THE MONSTER!!
OH!
VICE-CAPTAIN FLAMELA! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!
ALL OVER...
THE MOMENT HE LEAVES THE DUNGEON, IT'S ALL OVER!
DON'T LET THAT DEMON SET FOOT ON THE SURFACE!!
SHE'S TOO OKAY
BUTSU
BUTSU (MINIBU)
M-ME TOO...
WHAT LITTLE POWER I HAVE IS YOURS!


SUCH DESPERATE LENGTHS TO DELUDE THEM-SELVES!
VERY NICE! THIS IS GETTING EXCITING.
MY, MY.
GO DEMON-STRATE YOUR POWER.
NOW, THEN.


KU
CH
CYENKO
DOO
OOONO
ZAZAA
OKPLOOSHO
AAAGH!


GAHH THE HOLE IN THE SKY—
WAAAH!
YARGH!


DESTROY THE DUNGEON!
NO ONE NEEDS IT NOW!!
BARI (×RAK)
HA HA HA HA!
BARI
VERY GOOD!
GO ON, SHOW THEM WHAT YOU'VE GOT!
BARI
BEKKI (CRUNCH)
BAKI (CRUNCH)
THAT'S IT!
WH-WHAT DO WE DO?
IT'S NO GOOD. HE'S GONE FULL MONSTER.
HE'S EATING THE BARRI-ER...
UUU!
HELP US...


THAT YOU SUMMONED THAT ONE!
WON'T IT TAKE ORDERS FROM YOU?
COME TO THINK OF IT...
I'LL TRY...
SHURU (SNEEZE)


ヒュッ
ぱっくん
PAKKUN (CHOMP)


WHAT DO WE DO?
IT'S FINE!
IT ATE US TOO, AND IT'S ACTUALLY PRETTY ROOMY IN THERE.
OH...!
I-IT ATE HIM.
ゴクリ
GOKURI (GULP)


COME ON, DON'T GIVE UP!
RECAST THE BARRIER.
Y—
YES'M...
THE MONSTER'S GONE!
UM, I'M A GNOME...
IT DOESN'T MATTER!
SHARE YOUR MAGIC WITH THEM!
THOSE WHO CAN'T CAST, PROVIDE SUP-PORT!
ANYONE WHO'S MOBILE, HELP THE INJURED!
PAKU
PAKU (GASP)
THE SNAKE'S ACTING SORT OF...
HUH ...?


ズバー
ヒ!!
AAAH!




IT'S MY FAULT...
MAR-CILLE!?
BATAN! (*WUMP)
バターン!
...THE WORLD'S GOING TO END...
BECAUSE I REVIVED FALIN WITH ANCIENT MAGIC...
IT'S BECAUSE I BECAME THE LORD OF THE DUNGEON.
FURA (TOTTER)
MY FAULT...
YOU IDIOT!
IT'S MY FAULT...
DOES THIS LOOK LIKE THE TIME!?

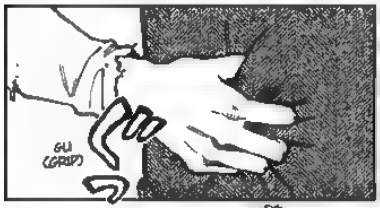

IT'S MY FAULT...
KABRU!?
BATAN
WHAT HAVE I BEEN DOING ALL THIS TIME?
WHY DID I SURVIVE UTAYA...?
I HAD SO MANY CHANCES TO KILL LAIOS, AND YET...
"KILL"?
I ALWAYS HAD A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
IT ALWAYS BOTHERED ME.
BACHIN (SLAP)
KABRU.
CAPTAIN.
NOW'S NOT THE TIME FOR THIS!
SOMEBODY KILL ME.
IT'S MY FAULT THE WORLD'S ENDING TODAY.
.....
YAAH!

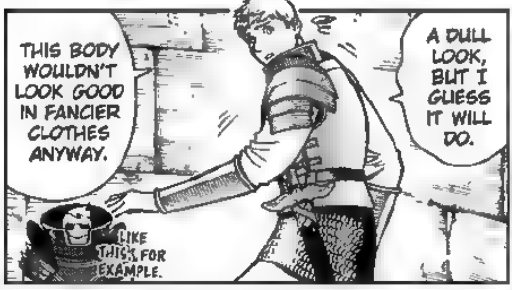

WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING.
むくり
THAT COOLED MY HEAD A BIT.
THIS REALLY ISN'T THE TIME TO BE SPACING OUT.
...AND PIN DOWN THE WINGED LION!
LET'S SET LAIOS ASIDE FOR NOW...
SO WHAT ARE WE DOING?
...BY DEMOLISHING THAT TOWER!!
HOW, EXACTLY?
FOR EXAMPLE...

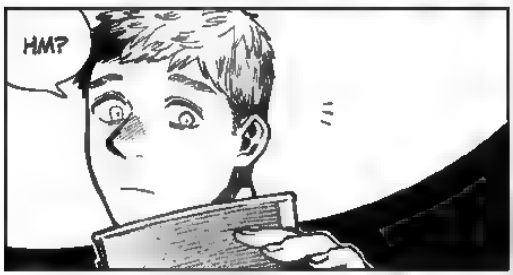

KOFF!
KOFF!
SHUUU
FFIIISH-O
DON'T GIVE UP! KEEP CASTING THAT BARRIER!!
EVERY-ONE ELSE, SUPPORT THE CAST-ERS!!
I DUNNO!
WHAT'S OUR NEXT MOVE!?
WE'LL HAVE TO PHYS-ICALLY TACKLE HIM OR SOME-THING!
NOT EVEN A SCRATCH ...
NO SUR-PRISE THERE.

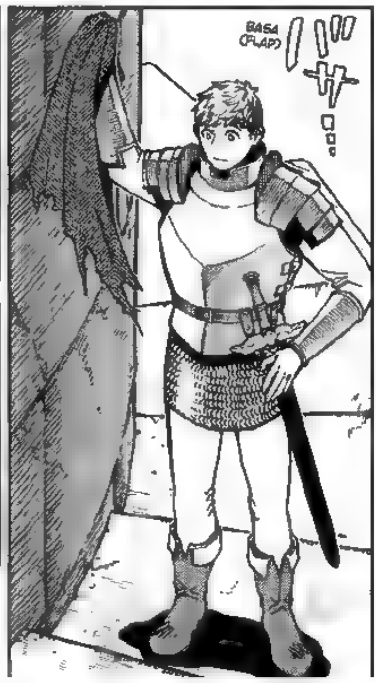

A MOMENTOUS DAY LIKE THIS, AND I'M IN RAGS.
I'LL NEED TO CHANGE INTO MY BEST.


GOOD GRIEF...
YAH!
YAH!


GU (GRIP)


THIS BODY WOULDN'T LOOK GOOD IN FANCIER CLOTHES ANYWAY.
A DULL LOOK, BUT I GUESS IT WILL DO.
LIKE THIS, FOR EXAMPLE.


HM?


BASA (FLAP)


WELL! YOU'RE ALL HERE.
I'M GLAD YOU'VE COME TO SEE ME OFF.
THAT ISN'T WHY!!
(DO GRABU)
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!!
...EVER SINCE I WAS SHUT UP IN HERE, I'VE ONLY BEEN ABLE TO USE MY POWERS WHEN MY LORD ORDERED IT.
YOU SEE...
I DID.
YOU DIDN'T NEED TO TAKE THAT!!
GIVE LAIOS'S BODY BACK!
I'VE BEEN GRANTING YOUR WISHES SINCE ANTIQUITY.
A LITTLE WISH LIKE MINE ISN'T MUCH TO ASK, IS IT?
I CAN FINALLY USE MY POWERS FOR MY OWN SAKE...
...THANKS TO HIS DESIRE.
NOW I AM THE LORD AND THE LAW.


HFF!
HFF!
HFF!
ASSUMING IT IS...
WHEEZE!
WHEEZE!
...JUST A "LITTLE WISH"!!
HFF!
HFF!
AAAH!
UU...
WHEEZE!
HAFF!
WHEEZE!
WHEEZE!
WHEEZE!
IT'S NOT MUCH FARTHER! HANG IN THERE!
AAAA

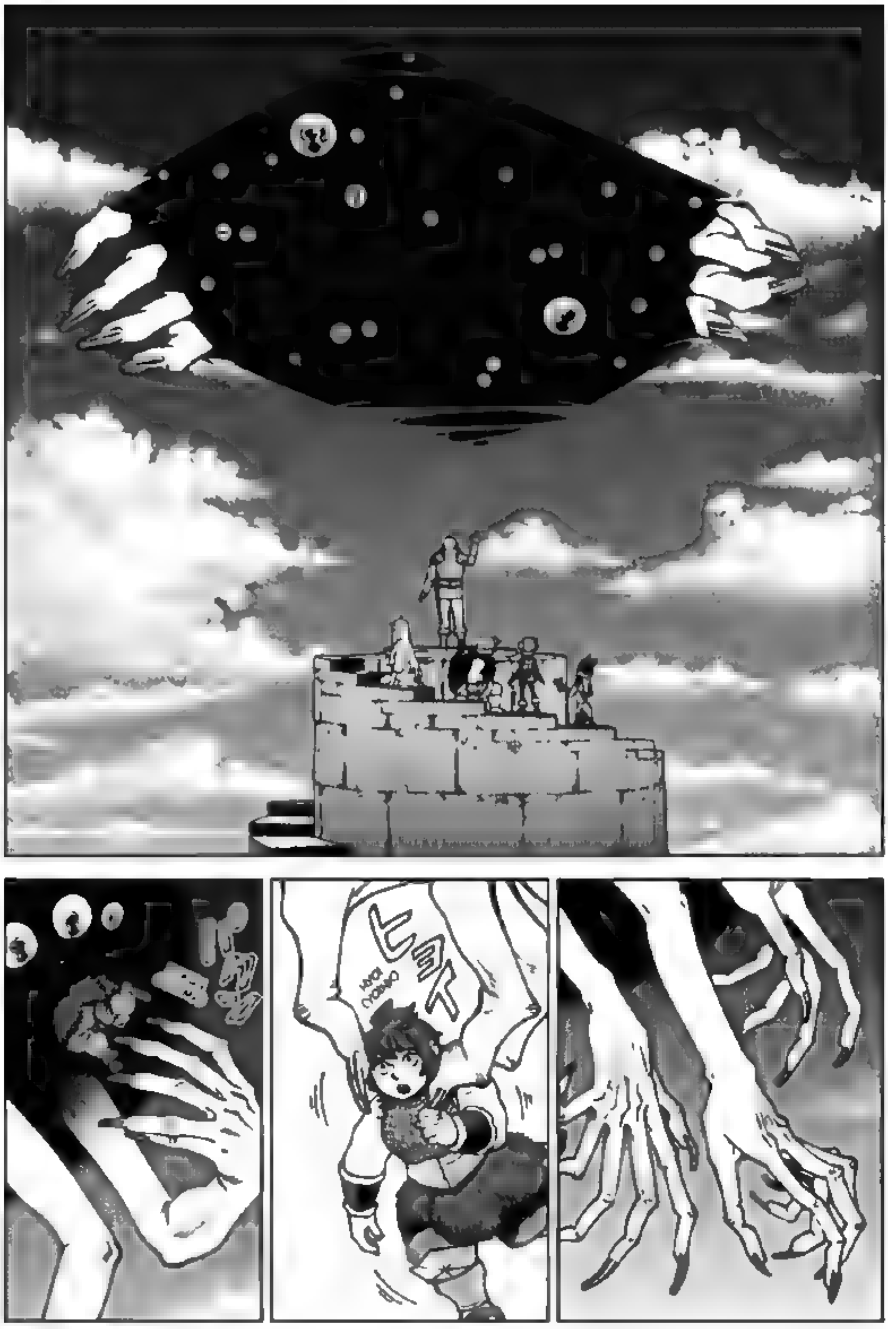

ТОЛСТЯК




AH—
AAAH!
.....
?
WHAT HAPPENED?


WHAT DID YOU DO?
WH—
THEY'RE ALL FROZEN IN TIME!?


I WON'T LET ANYONE DIE ANYMORE!
I'LL CONTINUOUSLY SATISFY HUMAN DESIRES...
...IN A WORLD WHERE EVERYTHING IS INFINITE!
I'M ABOUT TO TAKE THEM ALL BACK TO MY WORLD.
HERE WE GO.
I DID TECHNICALLY PROMISE LAIOS.
LIVE IN THIS WORLD TILL THE END OF YOUR DAYS.
UNFORTUNATELY, I'LL BE LEAVING YOUR GROUP BEHIND.
パクン (GAPE)
ピク (SLIT)




パク
ヒュイ
パク
ヒュイ
HA HA HA HA!
NOW LET OUR BLISSFUL, ETERNAL MEAL BEGIN!


ヒョイ
HYOI (YOINK)
HM?
HM?
HM?
ガラー
GARAAA (CROOK)
...HM?



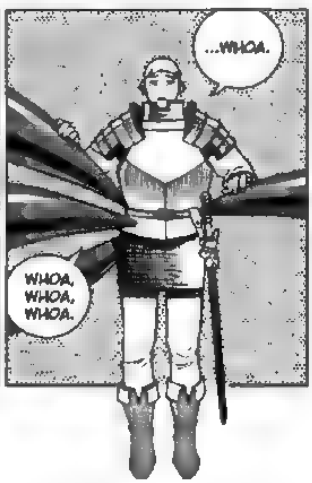



91. Winged Lion -6-




..AND NOW YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW HUMANS TASTE?
YOU'VE FINALLY BECOME A MONSTER...

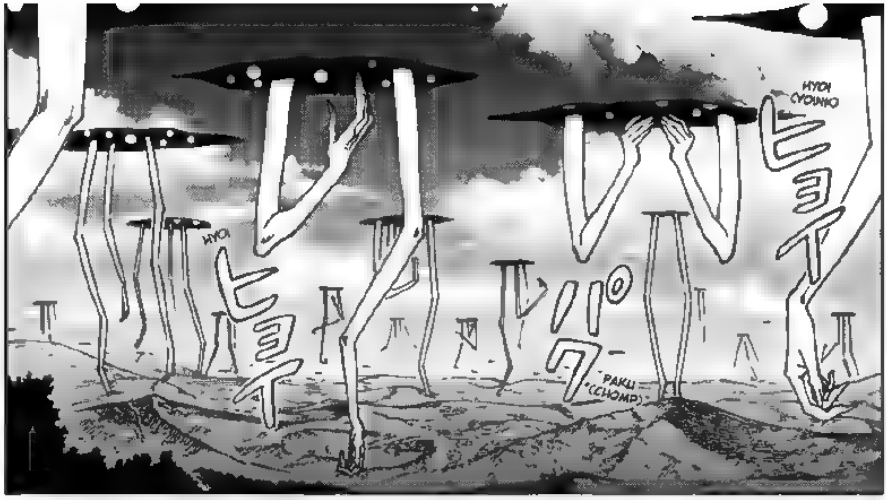

YOU MUST HAVE BETTER THINGS TO DO.
PLAN CHANGE?
PLAN
PLAN


...WHOA.
WHOA, WHOA, WHOA.


...WON'T HE BE STUCK IN THAT FORM?
BUT IF HE DOES THAT...
AH...
GO ON, EAT THE WINGED LION!
YANYA (CLAMOR)
YANYA
GOOD ONE, LAIOS!
IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE, TURN LAIOS BACK TO NORMAL RIGHT NOW!
HEY, WINGED LION!
OH CRUD.
GIVE UP, AND RESURRECT FALIN TOO!
WHEN YOU GOT LAIOS'S BODY, YOU DUG YOUR OWN GRAVE!
IF HUMANS GET KILLED, THEY DIE.
YES, THAT'S RIGHT!
YOU'RE JUST A HUMAN NOW!
NOW THAT I'M OUT OF THE DUNGEON, THE ENTIRE SURFACE IS PRACTICALLY MY HANDS AND FEET—
"THIS" IS ONLY A PART OF ME.
YOU STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND?


PAKU (CHOMP)
AGH!!!
MOGO
MOGO (WRIGG E)
BUMA (PHOOM)
BORO (TUMBLE)
BORO
HA-HA-HA-HA!
HA-HA-HA!

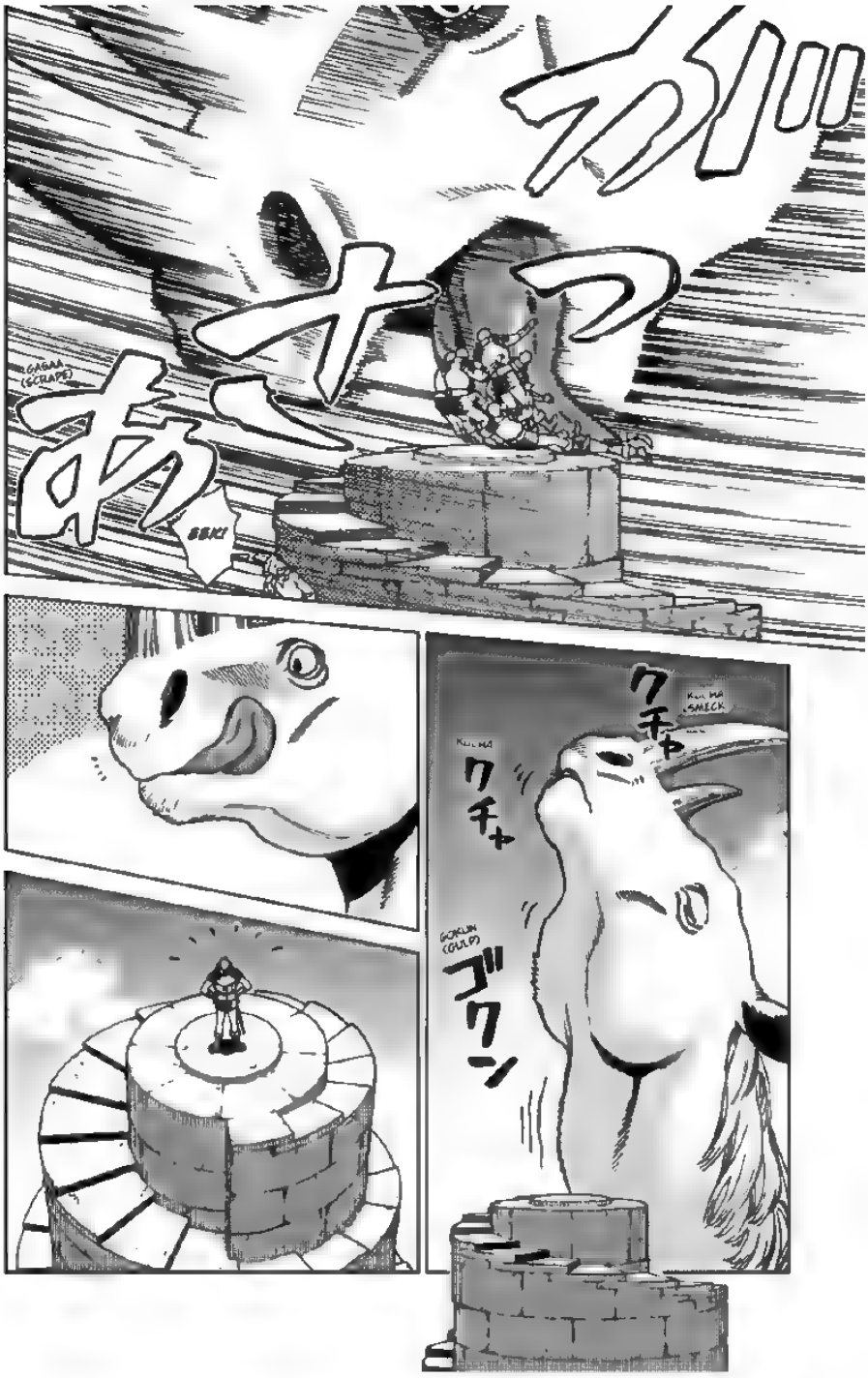

THERE'S AS MUCH OF ME AS YOU COULD WISH FOR.
ALL RIGHT, I GET IT.
GO AHEAD AND EAT YOUR FILL.
PORO
ポロ
ZORO (CROWD)
ゾロ
ZORO
ゾロ
YOU MAY ACTUALLY BE ABLE TO FINISH ME OFF.
GATSU (SCARF) GATSU
ガツ
LET'S MAKE A CONTEST OF IT.
PAKU
パク
BAKU (MANCH)
バク
WHICH WILL HAPPEN FIRST? WILL I RUN OUT, OR WILL YOU BE SATISFIED?


HYOI CYOINKO
HYOI
PAKU (CHOMP)


I'M GRABBING ONE OF THOSE HANDS AND JUMPING IN!
I REFUSE TO GET LEFT BEHIND!
AT THIS POINT, I DOUBT THERE'S ANYTHING WE CAN DO.
HAAH
KYU (SIGH)
BUTSU (MUMBLE)
BUTSU
WHAT DO WE DO? WHAT DO WE DO? WHAT DO WE DO?
PAKU
BY THE TIME THEY SETTLE THAT, I BET MANKIND WILL HAVE BEEN POLISHED OFF TOO.
AAH!


IF YOU MISS YOUR WIFE AND DAUGHTERS, I'LL MAKE THEM FOR YOU.
DOOON'T!
I'M CONFIDENT THEY'LL BE AS GOOD AS THE REAL—
SORRY, BUT NO. I WON'T LET YOU DO THAT.
EEP!
YOUR GROUP WILL LIVE OUT YOUR LIVES HERE.


BARUN (CHOMP)
HEY, THAT'S NOT SAFE.
YOU ALMOST ATE YOUR COMPANION.
GATSU (SCARF)
GATSU
COME ON, OVER HERE!
HE'S NOT INTELLIGENT ENOUGH TO RECOGNIZE YOU NOW.
STAY BACK.


わりゃ
ナマ
ガガガ (SCRAPE)
ぬ
EEK!
クチャ
KU-CHA (SMACK)
クチャ
KU-CHA
ゴクン
GOKUN (GULP)


BAKU
GAFU (SNRF)
BAKU (CHOMP)
BAKU
GATSU (SCARF)
WARA
WARA (SWARM)
WARA
WHAT'S THE MATTER!? COME ON!
I SAID THERE WAS AS MUCH OF ME AS YOU COULD POSSIBLY WANT.
IN THAT CASE...


MAYBE I'LL TAKE A BITE OUT OF YOU TOO.
REEAAH!
ドス!!
DOSU (SHUNK)
HEH HEH. HOW DOES IT FEEL?
TO HAVE ALL THE THINGS YOU'VE DONE INFLICTED ON YOU?
HM.
SURPRISINGLY LIGHT.
GORI (GRIND)
GORI

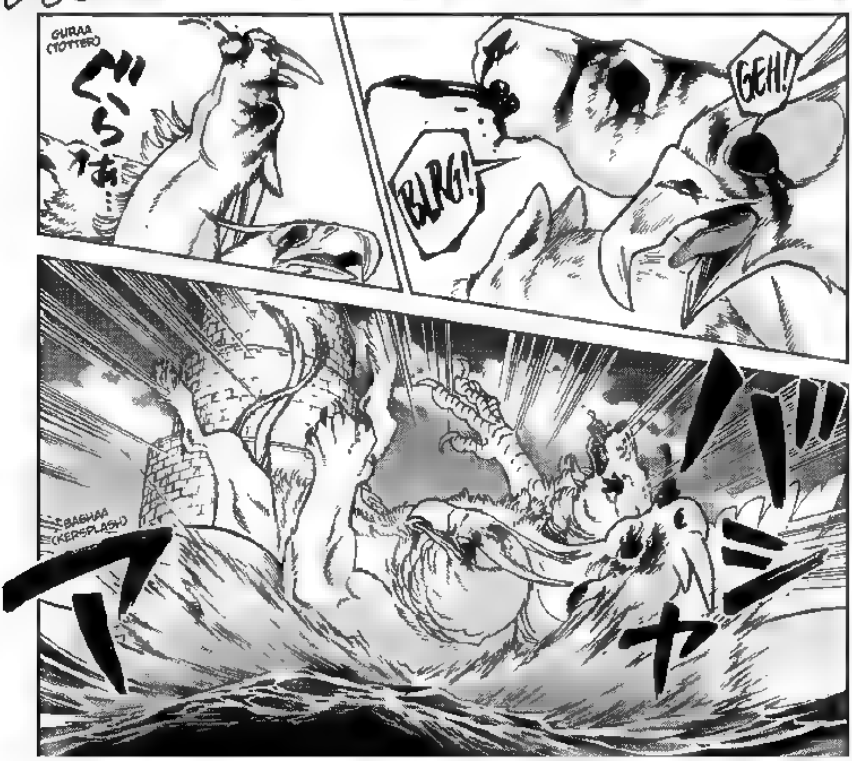

HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!


SNF!
HFF!
COME ON, FIGHT!
WANT SECONDS !?
MAYBE I'LL JUST CRUSH YOU.
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE SLOWING DOWN.
WHY DON'T I DEVOUR YOU FROM THE INSIDE OUT?
ONCE ALL THE HUMANS ARE GONE...
...HE MAY TURN HIS FANGS ON THE REST OF YOU SOMEDAY IN THIS FORM.
I CAN DO AS I PLEASE WITH HIM.
HE DIDN'T WISH FOR ANY PARTICULAR TREATMENT ONCE HE WAS A MONSTER.
STOP IT!
YOU DON'T NEED TO DO THIS!

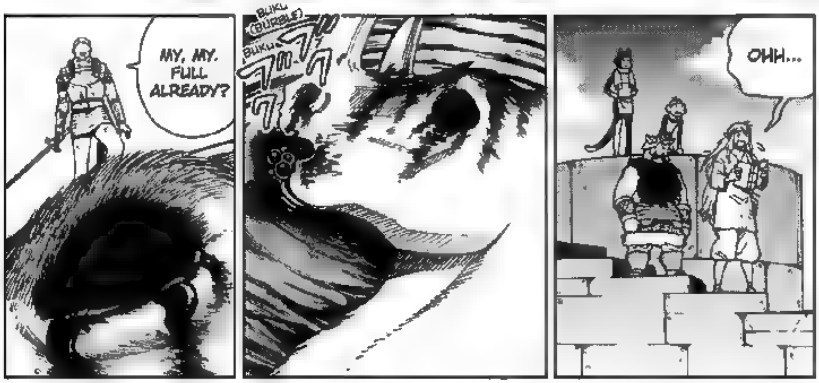

ONE, TWO, THREE!
BUCHI
BUCHI (SFX)
FRANKLY, I'VE NO FURTHER USE FOR HIM ANYWAY.
IN THAT CASE ...
...I SHOULD DEAL WITH HIM NOW!!
GRAAH!
HOW IS THIS. "THE STRONGEST"...
THAT'S THE SORT OF FELLOW LAIOS IS.
HOW IS THIS "THE STRONGEST"?
BUT HAVING THREE HEADS CLEARLY GIVES HIM MORE WEAK POINTS.
CAN'T HE DO ANYTHING BUT EAT?
FOR "THE STRONGEST," HE'S PRETTY WEAK!!
NO MONSTER COULD BEAT A SUPERNATURAL BEING...


I CAN GET IN THROUGH HIS EYE SOCKETS.
I'LL TRY GOING THROUGH HIS EARS.
HIS NOSTRILS ARE PASSABLE TOO.
LET'S SEE WHICH OF ME CAN GET TO HIS BRAIN FIRST.
IT'S TOO BAD YOU LIKED ANIMALS.
BUGH (GNAW)
IF YOU'D BECOME A SPIRIT OR AN ORB OF LIGHT...
...AT LEAST IN A FORM LIKE THAT, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE FELT ANY PAIN.
BUNI (SNAKE)


HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!


GURAA (TOTTER)
ぐらぁ…
BLING!
GEH!
BAGHAA (KERSPLASH)




MY, MY. FULL ALREADY?
BUKU BUBBLE
BUKU
OHH...


NEXT I'LL BUTCHER YOU AND COOK YOU.
BUT WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED!
.....
PITA CREEZED
I'LL MAKE ALL SORTS...
...OF...
.....
PITA
ぴた
ぴた
PITA


...LAIOS, YOU...
WHAT...
WHAT DID YOU EAT?
KUCHA (CHEW)
KUCHA
GOKURI (GULP)


—SPIT IT OUT!
SPIT IT OUT!!
SPIT IT OUT.
SPIT IT OUT!!!


ぬるり
NURURI (OOZE)
FUYON (WAP)
すとん
ACC (MACH)
もぐ
KUCHA (SMEGH)
ガッ
GA (WHAM)


HYO! (SWOOP)
BA! (LUNGE)
WHY, YOU—
WHY DO YOU HAVE THAT!?
...I GOT CURIOUS.
BY NATURE, YOU'RE BEYOND HUMAN UNDER-STANDING.
WHAT DESIRE WOULD OBSESS YOU THIS MUCH?


STOP!
—AND HOW WOULD IT TASTE?
PAKURI (CRUNCH)
THAT'S MY APPETITE!!
THAT'S—
IT'S MINE!!


THE DEMON ISN'T MOVING.
"CAN SWIM THROUGH THE OCEAN TOO...
"CAN GROW FORESTS FROM ITS POOP.
"CAN FLY THROUGH THE SKY AT 300 KPH.
"MY IDEA OF A COOL MONSTER—
"ABLE TO EAT AND DIGEST DESIRES"!
...BUT IT COULD EASILY BE A COINCI-DENCE.
I REALLY HOPE HE DID...
...I DON'T KNOW.
DID HE NEED THE BIT ABOUT GROWING FORESTS FROM HIS POOP?
WHAT A PREPOS-TEROUS FELLOW.
...LAIOS MADE THAT WISH SO HE COULD EAT THE DEMON'S APPETITE!?
YOU MEAN...
IT LOOKS LIKE HE WROTE IN THAT BIT RECENTLY!


MOGU
もぐ
THIS REALLY IS...
...A TASTE LIKE NO OTHER.
MOGU (CHEW)
IT ISN'T SWEET. IT ISN'T SPICY.
HOW SHOULD I DESCRIBE IT...?
TO SATISFY THIS CRAVING...
GOKURI (GULP)
...YOU MIGHT FIND YOURSELF TEMPTED TO DO JUST ABOUT ANY-THING.
THE MORE YOU EAT, THE MORE YOU WANT.
HAA... (NO)
IT TASTES LIKE THE FORCE THAT MOVES LIFE ITSELF.
GIVE IT BACK...


YOU DON'T NEED THIS.
YOU MAY BE AN IRREGULAR ENTITY FROM ANOTHER WORLD...
...BUT NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, YOU'RE GOING TO FOLLOW OUR RULES!
IN OTHER WORDS—
DON'T TALK AS IF YOU KNOW!!
IT'S NOT!
THIS IS WHAT TRAPPED YOU IN THIS WORLD...
WITH YOUR BOTTOMLESS STOMACH, IT MUST HAVE BEEN A TERRIBLE POISON.


EAT, OR BE EATEN!!
GRA (GRAB)
IF YOU SAY YOU'RE GOING TO KEEP EATING...
...THEN IN ORDER TO SURVIVE, I'LL EAT YOU!!


AAH!
BAKU (CHOMP)
!!!
!!
GARI (SCRAPE)
GARI
ガリ
!!
NO!
NO!!



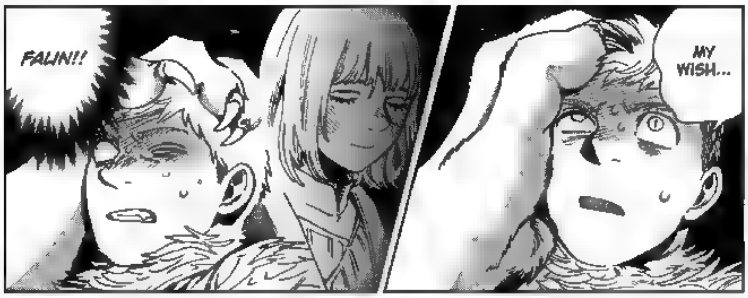

URP...
YOMO CYOTTIRO
ЗО...


OHH...
IT'S GONE.
OH.
HORO CRUMB
THE FIRST THING I ACQUIRED HERE.
EVERYTHING'S BORING.
YOU ATE IT, AND NOW IT'S GONE.
I NO LONGER WANT ANYTHING.
IT'S LOST ALL MEANING.
"I" AM DISAPPEAR-ING...


YOU WERE FREER THAN THAT.
...DON'T NEED TO BE BOUND BY A THING LIKE APPETITE.
YOU...
DON'T OBSESS OVER SOMETHING SO PETTY!
YOU CAN GO WHEREVER YOU LIKE.


I CURSE YOU.
LAIOS TOUDEN.
GA (GRAB)


YOUR GREATEST WISH WILL NEVER COME TRUE NOW.

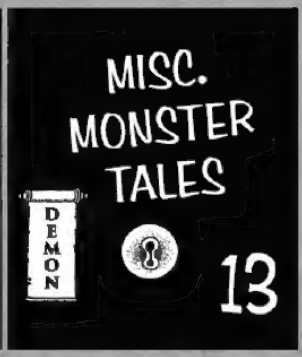

FALIN!!
MY WISH...

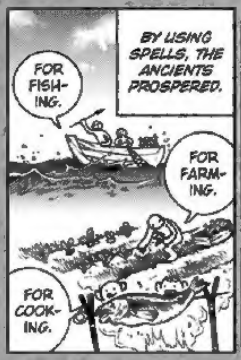

USE YOUR SCANT REMAINING TIME ON REGRETS.
HMPH.
I SWEAR...
WHAT PATHETIC CREATURES.
YOU MUST BE LIVING JUST TO STARVE.


LOOK!
WHAT ABOUT THE REAL LAIOS!?
THE DEMON'S DISAP-PEARING.

*To Be Continued...*


LET'S CALL IT "MAGIC."
EVEN WHEN YOU USE IT, IT DOESN'T GO AWAY.
ONCE, THE ANCIENTS DISCOVERED POWER FROM A DIFFERENT, LIMITLESS WORLD.


MISC. MONSTER TALES
DEMON
13


FOR FISHING.
BY USING SPELLS, THE ANCIENTS PROSPERED.
FOR FARMING.
FOR COOKING.


OOOH!
...THEY CREATED "SPELLS" —
WAYS TO CONTROL MAGIC.


I WISH IT WERE MORE CONVENIENT TO USE.
BY TRIAL AND ERROR ...
I THINK WE COULD AFFECT IT WITH SPEECH AND MOTIONS.


MAGIC DEVELOPED ORGANS TO UNDERSTAND IT.
HUMANS CREATED A LANGUAGE TO CONTROL MAGIC.


I'VE BEEN GIVEN MANY NAMES.
THAT'S JUST ONE OF THE THINGS THEY CALL ME.
THESE PIECES MESHED AND FORMED THE DEMON.


IN OTHER WORDS, YOU WANT TO MAKE ME DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS?
AS A RESULT OF CONSTANT USE, MAGIC BEGAN TO DEVELOP ITS OWN WILL.
YES, THAT!


MAYBE OTHER ORGANS DEDICATED TO HEARING, OTHER CREATURES EXIST, TOO, AND HUMANS JUST DON'T KNOW.
HMM. HMM.
MM-HMM.
WE WANT THIS.
THAT, GIMME.
I CAN UNDERSTAND HUMANS NOW...
...BUT NOT OTHER CREATURES.
BECAUSE IT HAD BEEN FORMED BY HUMAN DESIRES, IT WAS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO COMMUNICATE WITH HUMANS.
WHY?
THEY CREATED A DUNGEON, MAKING IT HARDER FOR THE DEMON TO USE VAST SPELLS.
FOR OUR MUTUAL BENEFIT.
PLUS, IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S EATING SOME-THING.
BRINGING SOMETHING INFINITE INTO A FINITE WORLD PROBABLY WASN'T A GREAT MOVE.
AT LAST, HUMANS REALIZED THE DANGER.
BUT WHAT?
YEAH, NOT GOOD.
...ALL ANCIENT MAGIC—THAT IS, KNOWLEDGE CONCERNING THE DEMON—WAS LABELED "TABOO" AND HIDDEN BY THE SURVIVORS.
TO PREVENT MANKIND FROM MAKING THE SAME MISTAKE TWICE...
AAAH!
STILL, IN THE END, THEY FELL.
AFTER ALL, HUMANS HARBOR A DESIRE FOR DEATH.
HOWEVER, AS LONG AS HUMANS GIVE HIM DESIRES, THE WORLD WILL BE DESTROYED SOONER OR LATER.
THE DEMON HAS NO MALICE.
A SCHOLAR WHO'D SPENT HIS LIFE RESEARCH-ING ANCIENT MAGIC LEFT BEHIND THESE LAST WORDS—

# 13

## DELICIOUS IN DUNGEON

## RYOKO KUI

**Translation: Taylor Engel** **Lettering: Abigail Blackman**

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